Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-219
Wednesday
15 November 1989

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FBIS-NES-89-219 *15 November 1989*

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Palestinian Affairs

Hawatimah Denounces U.S. Attempts To 'Bypass' PLO

JN1411174589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine addressed a statement to the masses of the intifadah today in which he denounced U.S. attempts to bypass the PLO. He affirmed that the PLO alone has the right to form its delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, whose aim, Hawatimah added, is to lead to an international conference for a comprehensive solution.

Fatah's Salah Khalaf Interviewed

PM1411162189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Nov 89 p 4

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, by Huda al-Husayni; date, place not given]

[Text] [Al-Husayni] What is the truth about what happened with Egypt, and what is the story of the message you sent to the Egyptian president?

[Khalaf] What message are you talking about?

[Al-Husayni] We heard that you sent a message.

[Khalaf] Me? Who said so? That is untrue; I have sent no messages.

As regards Egypt, there was a simple misunderstanding over what had been said about the (U.S. Secretary of State) James Baker plan. A statement had been issued in Cairo saying that the PLO rejected the Baker points and had some questions. We later understood that that statement was issued without prior agreement, then there were other statements, and that caused some misunderstanding which has finally been resolved. With Abu-'Ammar's ['Arafat] and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's recent visit to Egypt, the matter was resolved and all misunderstanding was eliminated.

[Al-Husayni] Do you think Israel now wishes to go back to the 2 October Baker statement to the effect that Israel, Egypt, and the United States get together to determine how the Palestinians should be represented? Is that what Israel wants now?

[Khalaf] I believe that Israel's wish today and tomorrow is that the Palestinian delegation be formed in accordance with its own specification. It wants to choose the delegation, its formation, and color. It does not recognize the PLO and it does not want the PLO to be involved in the formation of any Palestinian delegation. It does not want the PLO to play any part in the selection of names. Therefore we believe that Israel is not serious about the peace process because if it were serious it would have acknowledged the existence of the PLO and would have acknowledged that any dialogue held must be held with the PLO or people assigned by it. The fact that Israel rejects that is evidence that it is not serious.

[Al-Husayni] Is that the only proof that Israel is not serious?

[Khalaf] It is one of a hundred proofs, but it is an important one.

[Al-Husayni] It has been claimed that Shamir's objection to a dialogue with the PLO is not a matter of principle but rather a result of internal problems pertaining to Likud policies. Do you accept that view?

[Khalaf] I believe that Shamir is opposed to real peace. True, he is under some internal Likud pressure, but he is the basis of the rejection.

[Al-Husayni] What is the way to overcome his rejection?

[Khalaf] The United States must exert real pressure and stop its alignment with Israel and with everything Israel says. U.S. pressure is one of the important ways of changing the equation in Israel, but if that does not happen then we Arabs must think of ways of changing that equation both in Israel and the United States.

[Al-Husayni] How could the equation be changed, from an Arab angle?

[Khalaf] First there is the intifadah. We must preserve it and provide it with funds and we must not withhold support and aid from it. At the same time we must, as Arabs, consider how we could unify our political and economic moves in the battle in order to find a way of changing the equation in the United States and Israel.

[Al-Husayni] We hear that the United States is putting pressure on Israel to get it to agree to, and not to oppose, negotiations. We also hear that it is trying to convince Israel that once it has given the signal, the PLO would fade away. Is this the U.S. plan which you, too, reject?

[Khalaf] The U.S. policy is clearly following the plan that came from the Washington Institute, namely "Building for Peace." That is the plan being carried out by the U.S. Administration and State Department at present. The book "Building for Peace" is no longer a secret. The United States, through the State Department, is doing everything stated in that book. The plan sees the PLO as merely a bridge that the United States and Israel could cross to solve the question of Palestinian representation but also use to keep the Palestinians divided at home and abroad. The two states, however, would concentrate on relations with ordinary Palestinians who would be used to implement the autonomy which they see as the solution to the problem. That is how the Americans and Israelis see it. That, regrettably, is the truth.

[Al-Husayni] How do you view the U.S. secretary of state's proposals. Is there any future for them?

[Khalaf] The proposals have not been submitted to us officially. In the first place they were proposals submitted to Israel. We have many queries about them. We would be able to say clearly what we think of the plan once these queries have been answered.

[Al-Husayni] What are your queries?

[Khalaf] The most important one is: Will the PLO form the delegation or is the PLO merely a bridge to be crossed only by Palestinian figures who do not represent the Palestinian people?

[Al-Husayni] Is that the only question?

[Khalaf] That is the basis. There are other questions about the agenda. Will it be an open agenda? And what about international participation? Will this be a new Camp David, Palestinian brand, or will there be international participation?

[Al-Husayni] If you were to accept the Baker plan, would you ask for written guarantees from the United States?

[Khalaf] We do not believe in secret guarantees. We believe in everything that is open. The PLO should form the delegation, the dialogue should be open, and there should be an international presence. If we get a positive response to these matters then that would be satisfactory.

[Al-Husayni] Would you seek amendments to the Baker plan in that light?

[Khalaf] We said queries. If there is a response to them then you could call them anything you like.

[Al-Husayni] In the event of negotiations, who are the Palestinians that Israel would talk to, and what subjects would be discussed?

[Khalaf] Any Palestinian the PLO says it has chosen to participate in the dialogue. Such a person would be considered a representative of the PLO and the Palestinian people. What is important is that he should be chosen by the PLO.

As regards topics, we are willing to discuss the election issue—but alongside other very important issues: What will be the final solution or settlement? Our national rights—the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and to a state. These are the issues we expect to be raised during the negotiations. These issues should naturally be raised, otherwise what is the point of having a dialogue?

We will also raise the question of an international conference. We see the dialogue not as an alternative to but as preparation for an international conference.

[Al-Husayni] Would you agree to head the delegation to the negotiations with Israel?

[Khalaf] I would if the PLO asked me to.

[Al-Husayni] Would the PLO accept an indirect role in the formation of the delegation?

[Khalaf] That is the main game: Representation or no representation. If there is to be representation then the PLO should select and form the delegation. If the aim is to bypass the PLO then we and the Palestinian people reject it. I challenge any Palestinian not approved by the PLO to undertake any meeting, dialogue, or negotiation with Israel.

[Al-Husayni] Some Palestinians could negotiate with Israel and then, after winning the elections, declare that they represent the PLO.

[Khalaf] As I have already said, we are not against elections. We are willing to discuss elections, but that alone would not be sufficient because it would mean acceptance of the Shamir plan. However, elections as well as a concept of the final solution would be the complete deal.

[Al-Husayni] Let us now talk about the Soviet Union. Is it true that the Soviets are opposed to a European role in the settlement of the Middle East question and that they insist that you accept a U.S.-Soviet solution?

[Khalaf] I believe that the Soviet position is in favor of a European presence. A few days ago we met with (Soviet deputy Foreign Minister) Gennadiy Tarasov and before that we met with other Soviet officials. They insist on the European position. The parties which reject the European position are the United States and Israel.

[Al-Husayni] What about the meeting that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was supposed to have arranged in Moscow between a Palestinian official and an Israeli figure, under Soviet supervision?

[Khalaf] That was an invitation. Shevardnadze expressed Moscow's willingness to receive a high-ranking Palestinian delegation and an Israeli delegation, but Israel turned down the invitation.

[Al-Husayni] Did a Palestinian official actually go to Moscow?

[Khalaf] No, because Israel rejected the whole idea.

[Al-Husayni] We heard that a Palestinian official did go to Moscow for that purpose.

[Khalaf] People are always going to Moscow.

[Al-Husayni] London's THE INDEPENDENT has reported that you received a message from Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] seeking cooperation, and that Yasir 'Arafat was studying the message.

[Khalaf] Some days ago Abu Nidal issued a statement accusing us of helping those who broke away from his organization—two main figures, namely 'Atif Abu Bakr and 'Abd al Rahman 'Isa. The charge was that we had

encouraged these two people to secede from his organization. We have not received any message from Abu Nidal.

[Al-Husayni] Is it true that you encouraged or helped the dissidents?

[Khalaf] No, that is not true. The statements issued by Abu Bakr and 'Isa are quite clear. We are not responsible for these matters. 'Abd al Rahman 'Isa had been with Abu Nidal for 20 years, since 1969.

[Al-Husayni] What role is Libya playing to bridge the gap between the views of the Palestinian organizations?

[Khalaf] I believe that Libya is preoccupied with other things. It seems that it took its hands off Palestinian action more than a year ago.

[Al-Husayni] There is fresh talk these days about Europe, about the Pan-Am plane which crashed in Lockerbie. What point have you reached in your investigation of the case?

[Khalaf] Actually there is no evidence which you could call practical. There are speculation and analyses. One analysis is that Iran was behind the operation. As regards information, I have no information.

[Al-Husayni] Is there still coordination between you and the European security organs, and in return for what do you offer your information?

[Khalaf] First of all, we only have relations with the French, but not the others. As for returns, political action is the most important thing.

[Al-Husayni] In other words, you buy the political positions of states?

[Khalaf] May God forgive you.

[Al-Husayni] The Israeli authorities have allowed Jewish settlers into the occupied territory to clash with the Palestinians. What will your reaction be?

[Khalaf] That is not the only measure taken by Israel. Since the beginning of the year Israel has been renewing and diversifying its bestial methods in the occupied territory. Every day they come up with a new invention. This is not the first time they have allowed settlers to enter areas in the occupied territory, stage demonstrations, and storm houses and burn cars. These methods are continuing, and with all their might our people are resolutely resisting the settlers and the Israeli Army. Whether it is the settlers or the Israeli Army who carry the arms, our people will bravely and valiantly resist them and will continue to do so.

[Al-Husayni] Without arms?

[Khalaf] We will not use arms at all, no matter how the Israelis try to drive us to that. We will not resort to arms.

[Al-Husayni] You have recently warned that hard-liners inside the occupied territory may take over leadership of the intifadah.

[Khalaf] What I said was that if the U.S. position remained negative and the Israeli position remained intransigent then perhaps the extremist trend would take over leadership of the Palestinian people because the Palestinians might despair, and that might produce extremists and many other things. We have always warned against Palestinian despair becauase that would result in stunning and terrifying things.

[Al-Husayni] When will you seek a high-level meeting with the Americans?

[Khalaf] We have, since the beginning of the dialogue, made such a request, but it seems that the Americans want the dialogue to be a quiet and timid dialogue at ambassador level and by certain individuals within certain conditions. They do not want to develop the dialogue because a misleading Zionist hand seems to be in control inside the United States.

[Al-Husayni] Why did you personally agree to meet with the Americans at ambassador level if that is the U.S. position and if the United States only conveyed to you Israeli wishes and refused to accept your views?

[Khalaf] The U.S. ambassador asked to meet with me and I cannot turn down a request for a meeting—particularly as we meet with other ambassadors, such as the ambassadors of Italy, France, and Austria. It is natural to meet with the U.S. ambassador, but I did not realize that they wanted it to be secret. As soon as we announced the meeting the snakes came out of their pits and began to spit their venom into the United States—so we were branded as terrorists and as having carried out terrorist operations, and black files began to appear.

[Al-Husayni] But it seems that these methods no longer fool anyone.

[Khalaf] These methods have succeeded as far as the dialogue is concerned. They have managed to go to Congress and get a decision that the President of the United States should go to Congress and say that such and such a person is a terrorist and there should be no meeting with him and that such and such a person is not a terrorist. There can be no doubt that they have managed to influence U.S. public opinion.

[Al-Husayni] Were you classified as a terrorist?

[Khalaf] As a top terrorist.

[Al-Husayni] If the U.S. ambassador were to seek another meeting with you, would you agree?

[Khalaf] I would, because such a request by him would be evidence that they have changed their mind.

[Al-Husayni] It has been said that Syria has returned some of your property to you—such as farms, and also a school. Is that true?

[Khalaf] That is not true. Our relations with Syria do not depend on farms. That would be the easiest thing. We want political relations with Syria. Such relations are more important than some property and farms confiscated by the state.

[Al-Husayni] Do you have many properties in Syria?

[Khalaf] We have ordinary investments but they are not big investments.

[Al-Husayni] Every now and then you say that a delegation would go to Syria, but no such thing has happened so far. Why?

[Khalaf] The circumstances which prevent that are sometimes Palestinian and sometimes Syrian, but this time we hope the delegation will go there at the earliest possible time.

[Al-Husayni] Soon?

[Khalaf] Very soon.

[Al-Husayni] Will you be a part of the delegation?

[Khalaf] No.

[Al-Husayni] Last week the British prime minister urged the Israeli leaders to understand the fears and needs of the Palestinians and to look for a way that would fulfill Palestinian needs in a manner that would be in harmony with Israel's security. How do you view that British position?

[Khalaf] The truth is that after the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions there has been a significant and positive development in the British position. It can be generally said that there has been some development in the positions of all European states, but we are particularly satisifed with the British position. Mrs Thatcher's statement and other statements are part of that positive stance.

[Al-Husayni] It follows, though, that anything you ask for would have to be in harmony with Israel's security.

[Khalaf] When we speak of two states then we are talking about security for both states; but the one that would require guarantees would be the Palestinian state, not Israel, particularly if we consider Israel's armory. It constitutes a threat not only to the Palestinians but also to the Arab world and the Third World. It is now even part of the secret war between the big powers. It has a missile with a range of 1,400 km. The U.S. media have exposed its cooperation with South Africa, the most racist state in the world. That goes to show that Israel doesn't play only a local role.

[Al-Husayni] What was your answer to French President Francois Mitterrand's call for an Arab-French summit on the Middle East?

[Khalaf] We have agreed, and the summit will be held 20 November. It will be held in Luxembourg and we will participate in it along with the Arab brothers.

[Al-Husayni] Have the Arab states agreed?

[Khalaf] There will be an Arab League delegation consisting of representatives of Arab foreign ministers, or perhaps the ministers themselves, I am not sure about that; but there is agreement and the summit will be held 20 November.

[Al-Husayni] Is there a particular plan that you will discuss with the foreign ministers of France, Spain, and Ireland (they arrived in Tunis yesterday), or are you expecting a proposal from them?

[Khalaf] We will submit to them what happened with the United States recently, beginning with Egypt's 10 points, then Baker's points and the related developments, and then we will ask them to pursue the European initiative because West Europe's position is now a very positive and advanced position, especially since the Madrid statement. That statement is incompatible with the U.S. pro-Israel position. We are interested in a European role and initiative despite Israel's intransigence and U.S. alignment with it.

[Al-Husayni] Some Palestinian Americans have launched a campaign against the PLO, accusing it of not knowing how to deal with the United States.

[Khalaf] These, at any rate, are PLO advisers, and when advisers criticize PLO policy it means there is something wrong between the PLO and its advisers; but we have a democracy where opinions and counteropinions are expressed. We must accept all criticism, but my own personal observation is that much of what brothers Edward Said and Abu Lughod have said would have been better said directly to the PLO, particularly as they have the opportunity at all times to meet with and convey their views to the PLO leadership. Anyway, as I have said, we are democratic and we accept all criticism.

[Al-Husayni] Let us go back to France briefly. The media had reported that a French-Egyptian-Palestinian meeting would be held in Paris but a French-Palestinian meeting was held without Egypt's participation. Why?

[Khalaf] The person who was supposed to attend and participate had other engagements, so he could not do so; but there is nothing to prevent a tripartite meeting in the future.

[Al-Husayni] We hear of nightly liquidations in the 'Ayn al Hulwah camp in Sidon. What is going on there?

[Khalaf] What is going on is a settling of scores with those who seceded from the Abu Nidal organization.

Such actions are deterimental to us internationally, at the Arab level, and everywhere.

[Al-Husayni] Have there been any casualties from Fatah itself?

[Khalaf] The important point is that there are casualties, regardless of whether they are from Fatah or any other organization.

[Al-Husayni] Is Fatah in control of 'Ayn al Hulwah?

[Khalaf] Fatah is in control, but five people with guns could cause damage.

[Al-Husayni] What about Lebanon? Do you believe it is now on its way to peace?

[Khalaf] I believe that the tripartite committee's efforts which produced the al-Ta'if agreement were great for the Lebanese people and for every Arab who wants security, calm, and stability for Lebanon. We see the election of the president of the republic as a gain and the beginning of the road to a final solution.

[Al-Husayni] The PLO has so far not sent a congratulatory cable to the new president.

[Khalaf] We still do not know his address.

(After this interview Abu-Iyad did send a cable to the new president)

'Arafat on Ties With Egypt, Other Issues

JN1111191289 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 10 Nov 89 pp 14-16

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Sana' al-Sa'id—date and place not given]

[Text] AL-MUSAWWAR: How do you rate Egypt's role in the Palestinian march and other efforts to promote a lasting, just settlement?

President 'Arafat: We have a high regard for the role played by President Mubarak and by Egypt on behalf of the Palestinian cause on the international, Arab, and local fronts. On this occasion, I would like to express my warm welcome of President Mubarak's initiative for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo as a step to prepare the international conference to deal with the Palestinian question and the Middle East problem. Egypt's constructive, positive, and visible role to promote the cause of the Palestinians and the Arab nation is to be applauded.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How far is the PLO coordinating with Egypt in relation to the peace process. Would Egypt take unilateral action before first consulting with you?

President 'Arafat: I am proud to say that whatever is initiated will have been so only after consultations at various levels and will involve several echelons of the PLO and Egyptian leadership. There has been complete coordination with Egypt.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How would you characterize the threats issued by George Habash against the life of President Mubarak?

President 'Arafat: It is better that this subject be put behind us and forgotten. We stated our position at the PLO Central Council. We said that under no circumstances should such statement have come from a Palestinian official. This much I told President Mubarak, who was understanding. It is not only in the Palestinian arena that such statements should be condemned. They are condemned all over the Arab world and elsewhere. As you know, President Mubarak was not the sole target of such a threat; I was also a target. I was threatened with assassination by Habash. Such threats are reprehensible, being contrary to the rules of the democratic game.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How would you explain divergent and, sometimes contradictory, Palestinian pronouncements over Egypt's role, especially given that such divergence would serve to undermine its case and erode the credibility of the PLO?

President 'Arafat: There is no divergence over Egypt's role. It seems that there is too much Palestinian democracy. We are a democratic institution, and Palestinian diversity results in information reaching leaders a little late. Besides, we are now experiencing anxiety at this particular, critical juncture. Hence, varied opinions are likely to surface. But as you know, we take pride in our democratic practices and in the end whatever is agreed among ourselves is binding on all of us. I wonder why it is that no one pays attention when the Israeli leaders air their differences. Why should it be possible for a plurality of opinion to exist in the American Congress, Administration, and press and we should be denied the same privilege? We have liberal democracy in common with other liberal democracies in the world. We must be treated as a liberal democracy.

AL-MUSAWWAR: In light of the visit that Shamir plans to pay to the United States in the middle of this month, and in conjunction with the game of exhausting Arab potential and patience, it was reported that the United States informed Israel that it will give it guarantees, in a special appendix, to reiterate its commitment to exclude the PLO from any talks or negotiations, and that Shamir has insisted that these guarantees be included in the document containing Baker's five points. Does not this constitute further proof of the two sides' maneuverings on the cause?

President 'Arafat: I have no knowledge of what you are saying here now. However, it is clear that the U.S. Administration adopts Shamir's views and not the Israeli Government's views. As we know, there were differences in the Israeli Government on the vote on Egypt's 10 questions. There were six votes in favor and six votes against. Instead of being neutral, we saw the U.S. Administration readopting Shamir's plan, and it is still adopting it. In fact, it has even protected Shamir's government from collapse by influencing the religious

parties such as Shas, which had earlier expressed its support for the Labor Party but later changed its mind and supported the Likud against the Labor Party. This is part of the U.S. game in the Israeli arena. Regrettably, those who lead this process are Henry Kissinger's students. Kissinger was able to plant them in various sensitive posts in the U.S. Administration. They are now behind all the clear American retreats on the cause and the peace process in the region.

AL-MUSAWWAR: This interpretation might be the closest to the truth, especially since Kissinger rushed to hold meetings and consultations with the Bush administration after it came to office.

President 'Arafat: Yes, we recall that Kissinger announced that he held several meetings on the Middle East issue with senior officials in the U.S. Administration.

AL-MUSAWWAR: There were some who said that the PLO might be mistaken in its insistence on choosing the members of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations inasmuch as it has a great deal of power to manipulate events from behind the scenes even if it itself does not participate in forming the Palestinian delegation.

President 'Arafat: The PLO rejects the attempts to bypass it in the peace process. The issue is not that of insisting on this or that issue. The issue is that we are not sticking to the details of the situation. We are committed to the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution No. 176, which was issued in Geneva and won 48 votes. All the international groups have approved this resolution, including the nonaligned, African, Islamic, and socialist bloc states, as well as the PRC, Japan, Canada, Australia, the EEC states, the Scandinavian states, and the other European states. Only the United States and Israel voted against this resolution. We are also committed to the Arab summit's resolutions which adopted the Palestinian peace initiative. The United States ignores it completely and speaks only about Shamir's plan on which even the Israelis themselves differ. In light of this, I have the right to ask the whole world: What is my position now toward this strange U.S. stand?!

AL-MUSAWWAR: The United States will concentrate on the occupied territory elections for the sake of establishing some sort of autonomy that will guarantee the nonestablishment of a Palestinian state and the nonrecognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

President 'Arafat: I would like to recall an incident that occurred in 1982. On instructing Alexander Haig to plan with Sharon to storm Beirut, Reagan thought that the city could be taken within 3 to 5 days, as Haig officially wrote in detail in his memos which were published by the Arab and foreign press. What happened? Lebanon was the longest of the Arab-Israeli wars; it is the only war that none of the Israeli generals has thus far dared to claim, as they do with all wars and positions the Israeli generals boast of and claim credit for. It was an unmatched defeat.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Yes, Lebanon turned into a quagmire for Israel.

President 'Arafat: Yes, it was really a bitter defeat and the siege of Beirut turned into the heaviest blow dealt to Israeli militarism. Despite the presence of three quarters of the Israeli Army and all the Air Force and Navy, they failed to enter Beirut. However, they managed to do so after my departure from Beirut as a result of a trick played together with the U.S. Army and forces which allowed Israel to enter although I handed Beirut over to the U.S.-British-French-Italian multinational force and international observers.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Does this mean that the autonomy Israel wants to implement under U.S. support will not be imposed and the mission will not be accomplished as they want?

President 'Arafat: Yes. Therefore, I would like to say that not all that others impose is destiny. This reminds me of another thing. Rabin said at the outset of the intifadah that he would eliminate it within 2 days after his return. I defied him and told him: You have 2 days, 2 weeks, 2 months, and 2 years; we will wait and see. What I said has today come true; the intifadah is about to enter its 3d year. It is still going on and will continue and escalate until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over Jerusalem.

AL-MUSAWWAR: It is reported that you officially reject James Baker's proposals. I wonder what is the exact situation, especially since Palestinian circles—specifically Nayif Hawatimah—have criticized the PLO Central Council's final statement issued in Baghdad last month, stressing that it was drafted in a manner that does not state the PLO's rejection of Baker's proposals.

President 'Arafat: My reply to this is summed up in what I said to the brother officials in Egypt on these five clauses (Baker's proposal). I said we requested several clarifications on them and we are waiting for the U.S. reply to our inquiries.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Have you received any replies to the inquiries you made about Baker's proposal?

President 'Arafat: This is now premature until we see the Israeli stand. [sentence as published]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Does the Israeli stand hinge upon Shamir's anticipated visit to the United States in the middle of this month?

President 'Arafat: I do not know exactly.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Israel claims that there is a major amendment to two principal points in Baker's plan in harmony with Israel's wishes. The first point allows Israel to reject any member of the Palestinian delegation. The second point calls for a dialogue on elections and for negotiations on the dialogue procedures rather than the overall negotiations themselves.

President 'Arafat: I would like to ask a question: Are they Baker's proposals or Arens' proposals? If they are Baker's, they should remain Baker's. But when Arens makes amendments, they are no longer Baker's proposals but Arens' proposals. And if Shamir comes and makes other amendments to these proposals, they are no longer Baker's or Arens'. They will become Shamir's proposals. Therefore, I would like to ask the U.S. Administration if these proposals are Baker's, Arens', or Shamir's?

AL-MUSAWWAR: Israeli political circles have said that Mendes-France's widow recently conveyed a message from you to Rabin in which you express your readiness to meet with him any place he wants. Is that true?

President 'Arafat: In fact, when I met with Mendes-France's widow, I said that I was ready to meet any Israeli official. I also said the same at the United Nations last year, when I invited the Israeli leaders to meet me to make peace.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Did you mention Rabin by name?

President 'Arafat: I talked about my readiness to meet any leader, including Rabin and Arens.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Jordan may try again to be a key to the solution. I wonder if it has asked you to return to the 1985 agreement between you and Jordan. Would you accept such a demand, especially since it is difficult to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue because of Israel's rejection of the PLO's partnership in any deal?

President 'Arafat: We have stressed several times that relations between the Palestinians and the Jordanians are distinguished and very close, and that future relations will be based on a confederation between the two states. We reached this agreement with King Husayn and it is also completely supported by the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. His Majesty King Husayn recently stressed this point and also emphasized that he would not hold negotiations on behalf of the Palestinians, that confederation can be established only by two independent states, that he would not negotiate on the Palestine question, that the Palestinian side should exercise its right and play its role in the future of this cause, and that it is the PLO's role. Jordan's role is taken for granted like the Egyptian or the Arab role.

AL-MUSAWWAR: You have made many concessions for the sake of peace but no positive move has been made by the other side. Why do you continue to make these moves and concessions?

President 'Arafat: I do not believe I have made any concessions for the sake of peace. Peace deserves every one of our efforts. Therefore, the Palestinian leaders and the Palestine National Council declared their readines to bring about a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in order to regain the Palestinian people's national rights in accordance with international legitimacy. Achieving peace is a great victory not only for the Palestinian people, but also for the whole world.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Does this mean you have not run out of patience despite the exposed Israeli maneuvers and the signs confirming that Shamir does not want a solution nor desires a settlement, but only wants to procrastinate and waste time?

President 'Arafat: To begin with, I must say that I have not run out of patience because, as the Arab proverb goes, O mountain, no wind can shake you. Second, if Shamir, and the U.S. Administration behind him, think they can gain time to destroy the intifadah, then they are both very wrong.

I must here caution the U.S. Administration and tell it that it is mistaken, because if the barrel of gunpowder explodes, no one in the region will be far from the explosion. I said this before when I left Beirut, and no one believed me then. I believe that, now, everybody knows about the dear price paid for what happened in Beirut. The first to pay the price were the Americans and U.S. interests.

I warn that this will happen again if the United States continues with its injustice. The same thing will happen with the Palestine question with one difference. The situation in Lebanon remained a purely Lebanese situation. But, the Palestine question will not be a mere Palestinian situation. It will be a Palestinian, Lebanese, Arab, and international situation. Then, I will challenge them to be able to confine this congregation. No one will be able to contain this immense congregation.

AL-MUSAWWAR: The Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies in Israel prepared an important document in which it ignored all available proposals and proposed the establishment of a Palestinian state over a period of 10 to 15 years.

President 'Arafat: There are numerous Israeli, European, U.S., and Palestinian studies. However, I wish to say that we insist on implementing international legitimacy and reject anything short of that.

AL-MUSAWWAR: In your opinion, what does the formation of a unit of armed Jewish settlers in Hebron, which enjoys clear support from the Israeli Defense Force against the unarmed Palestinian Arabs in the occupied Arab territories, mean?

President 'Arafat: This is not the first time; it is a continuous process, and we are facing organized official terrorism from the Israeli Army and the armed Israeli settlers. The announcement of the formation of this unit only confirms what I said earlier that the Israeli Zionist settlers are playing this terroristic role alongside the Israeli Armed Forces and security units against our people, children, and women.

It is enough now that they admit what we warned from the beginning of the intifadah about those armed settlers'

involvement against the Arabs. They have clearly shown their terrorism, Nazism, fascism, and racism.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Regarding the Lebanese question, what do you think about the situation after the al-Ta'if agreement, especially since sovereignty in Lebanon is still an unresolved, or unsettled, problem?

President 'Arafat: I wish to say that there is an Israeli-U.S. conspiracy in which certain Arab parties are involved to fragment Lebanon. O God I have delivered the message, so be my witness. I have said this before and will continue to say it because, as the Arab proverb goes, he who does not speak the truth is cursed.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Cited on U.S., Egyptian Stands

JN1211111289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Doha, 12 Nov (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas has affirmed that the popular Palestinian intifadah, which has entered its 24th month, will continue and proceed on the course of liberation until it achieves its objectives without heeding the proposed settlement plans.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, Mahmud 'Abbas appealed to the Arab states to continue to support the intifadah financially to ensure its continuation and enable it to score numerous accomplishments and gains.

The PLO official assailed the U.S. stand vis-a-vis the Palestine question and said that the United States is demonstrating total bias toward Israel. He added that the United States has continued to ignore the facts pertaining to the Middle East conflict. Hence, it has lost the role of an effective partner in the process designed to bring about peace in the region, Mahmud 'Abbas said.

The Palestinian official branded the U.S. veto recently used against a draft U.N Security Council resolution condemning the terrorist Israeli practices in the occupied territories as a blow to the efforts currently being made to find a peaceful settlement. He added that this veto gives very gloomy indicators on the lack of seriousness characterizing U.S. moves.

Mahmud 'Abbas called upon the United States to bring pressure to bear on Israel and make it utilize the peace opportunities currently available. He asked the United States not to offer Israel any concessions at the expense of the Palestinian people's cause—concessions which might harm the Middle East peace efforts. He said that the exertion of such pressures on Israel will show seriousness in U.S. efforts.

The PLO official paid tribute to Egypt's stand and praised its unlimited support for the Palestine question. He added that Egypt affirms on every occasion that the PLO is the sole agency that represents the Palestinian people and that only the PLO has the right to choose its delegation to any negotiations. He went on to say: Thus, Egypt is resisting numerous pressures. I firmly believe that Egypt will not back down on this stand no matter how strong the pressures become.

'Abbas on Baker Plan, Gulf Tour

JN1211160089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1452 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Manama, 12 Nov (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, says the PLO has neither accepted nor rejected American Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan.

Abu Mazin, who is also a Fatah Central Committee member, told WAKH shortly before leaving Manama for Kuwait this evening that Baker's plan has not been directly conveyed to the PLO. The PLO will determine its position on the plan in light of answers to clarifications sought by the PLO.

'Abbas described his talks with the deputy amir and the foreign minister of Bahrain as productive and constructive. They discussed recent Palestinian developments and the projected Palestinian-Israeli dialogue following Israel's consent to an amended version of the Baker plan. His discussions with Bahraini officials, added the Palestinian official, also touched on the intifadah and Israel's continuing repression against the Palestinians and the potential for a major Arab thrust to back Palestinian and Egyptian efforts. [passage omitted]

On his current regional tour, 'Abbas said the PLO feels it is important that Gulf leaders be given an update on Palestinian developments as the Palestinian cause concerns all Arab countries.

Praising President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government, 'Abbas said the PLO recognizes their efforts which could serve to bridge views and help initiate a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. [passage omitted]

Abu Mazin stated that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will shortly make a tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council states and that his own visit is to prepare the PLO leader's trip.

PFLP-GC Official Praises Syria, Al-Quds Radio

JN1311195289 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1720 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has said that President Hafiz al-Asad was the one to embrace the Palestinian revolution and armed struggle even before the corrective movement. He added: The greatest thanks go to President Hafiz al-Asad for the 1964 Rabat summit's recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Mr Naji made these statements in a interview published fully in the Syrian paper, TISHRIN,

in its 12 November, 1989 issue. In the interview, he discussed all political issues, concentrating on Arab and Palestinian issues.

Mr Naji devoted a large part of his interview to the situation in Lebanon and the Syrian president's handling of the struggle in this country—a result of which was the toppling of the 17 May agreement and the promotion of the Syrian Arab program which hastened victory and success.

Mr Naji reaffirmed that Syria is present in Lebanon, as all Arab strugglers believe, to protect Lebanon's Arab identity, prevent its partition, maintain the Palestinian presence there, and protect the Lebanese people from the isolationist Zionized forces that want to wrench Lebanon away from the Arab homeland.

Mr Naji described the Lebanese struggle as a pan-Arab question that concerns all Arab strugglers, especially the national security of Syria, and, historically, Lebanon is a part of Syria. If it is not reinforced, it might become a great threat to Syrian national and pan-Arab security.

Answering a question on the claims and lies put out by the imperialistic media against the PFLP-GC, Mr Naji said that imperialist circles view the PFLP-GC as a great obstacle to their plans to settle the national Palestinian cause. He said: The PFLP- GC had the honor of lighting the first fire in the intifadah of our people in Palestine in the heroic Qibyah martyrs' operation. It also played the central and prominent role in forcing the enemy to release Palestinian strugglers in the two operations of al-Nawras and Hebron, which formed the core of the intifadah's beginning.

On the aims of the imperialist campaign against the PFLP-GC, Mr Naji said: The aim and goal behind these claims is to terrorize all the allies of the PFLP-GC by threatening to label them as terrorists, to boycott and exclude them economically, and to practice military pressure on occasion to stop their contacts with the PFLP-GC. These are flagrant attempts to put pressure on Syria, Libya, and Iran to stop supporting us and the Palestine National Salvation Front.

In answer to a question, Mr Naji said: The reasons for dispute in the Palestinian arena lie in the destructive, deviationist, and traitorous plan to make concessions. He adds: We warned that the Zionist enemy cannot be dealt with except through the language of the peoples. However, they opted for the easy road of degradation. The result was that the enemy asked them for even greater concessions, to the extent of blotting out our identity.

He praised the al-Quds radio station, which deserves thanks for conveying the ardor of the intifadah. It carries instructions to all the sons of our people. It encourages them toward more steadfastness and sacrifice, to continue the intifadah, and to avoid the traps of the enemy. It also conveys accurate information to every house in Palestine. For this reason, the enemy tries to jam the radio station by using a central station entirely for this purpose.

Mr Naji expressed his confidence that the Palestinian people, in the same way that they have thwarted all the conspiracies of the last 40 years, can thwart the new round of the greatest conspiracy against them.

Egypt

Further Reportage on Egyptian Workers in Iraq

AL-JUMHURIYAH Comments

JN1311094589 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Nov 89 p 11

[By Jamal Kamal]

[Text] A Kuwaiti journalist asked Iraqi President Saddam Husayn a year and a half ago about the Egyptian workers in Iraq and the problems caused by the number of these workers. President Saddam replied frankly and clearly that Iraq does not forget the Egyptian people and workers' support for Iraq throughout the years of war. He noted that if the Iraqi workers in Egypt equaled one-half of the Egyptian workers in Iraq, the problems would be more and greater.

Throughout the past year and a half and during many visits to Iraq, most recently during the al-Faw reconstruction celebrations, I observed hundreds of thousands of Egyptian workers all over Iraq—in Baghdad, al-Sa'dun, al-Rab'ah, al-Shurjah, Bin-Rashid, al-Faw, Basra, Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Mosul. No Iraqi official nor any official in the Egyptian Embassy or consulate knows the exact number of Egyptians in Iraq. Figures vary—some say there are 1 million and others say there are more. All are unanimous, however, about the contradiction in the issue of Egyptian workers. Everybody complains about the shortage of job opportunities in Iraq, and records at the Cairo and Saddam airports indicate an increase in the number of those returning and departing.

According to many Egyptian workers and Dr Faruq Ibrahim al-Dasuqi, head of the Egyptian community in Iraq, this contradiction is due to the new circumstances in Iraq in the post-war period and the debts. During the past year, Iraq demobilized more than 500,000 soldiers who were deployed on the front and who were in the Popular Army. Those people returned to their old jobs in government departments, markets, and stores. Therefore, job opportunities in Baghdad largely decreased not only for Egyptians, but also for the Iraqis themselves, as Nabil Najm, Iraqi ambassador in Cairo, said.

During the stage of continuous construction, Iraq concluded contracts with many Korean, Japanese, and Indian companies to reconstruct the border cities. The contracts provide that workers with certain qualifications from these companies' countries will have jobs within the costs of these projects. Consequently, job opportunities were shared between these companies and Iraq.

Iraq also began in recent years to depend on national workers. All job announcements now are confined to Iraqis. Dr al-Dasuqi said that the August decisions were the beginning. Iraq wanted to establish a monetary policy that harmonizes with its conditions by organizing the monetary remittances of Arab workers, including Egyptians.

The Iraqi Revolution Command Council's decisions of 1982 and 1989 allow all workers to transfer $120 per month. However, Resolution 524, issued last August, allows workers in government departments, the mixed sector, unions, and societies to transfer 40 Iraqi dinars, which is equivalent to more than $120 per month, and 30 Iraqi dinars for non-Iraqis. Workers covered by social security in the private sector have the right to transfer 20 dinars. Those without social security have the right to transfer 10 dinars—that is $30 dollars or 75 Egyptian pounds.

Despite this, Nabil Najm said that flights from Cairo to Baghdad have not stopped. It is true that large numbers have returned and fewer have arrived in Iraq, but the movement is continuous.

The problem was not confined to the decreasing work opportunities and remittance entries—something was added, making it more dangerous and serious. The Iraqi laws allow any Arab citizen to stay in Iraq for 3 months without a residence permit, whether or not he finds a job. But the same laws demand that travel tickets be bought in dollars if the return takes place before the 3 months are up, and in dinars if the return takes place after 3 months. This makes many people wait until the end of the 3-month period. Besides, the delay in remittances from the al-Rafidayn Bank in Baghdad to its branch or dealers in Cairo for more than a year has reflected negatively on many Egyptian workers. Some of them prefer to send remittances to their families and remain in Iraq, even jobless, to follow up on remittances or wait for new jobs. Others are afraid to take the risk and therefore keep their money with them.

The picture, with all its discrepancies, circumstances, and implications, reflects the conditions of the Egyptian workers in Iraq. It is true that the case differs in al-Faw and al- Basrah, where Egyptian workers do find jobs, but some of them work for 20 hours a day in temperatures of not less than 50 degrees centigrade. As stated in some contracts, they might be dismissed at any time without receiving any compensation, and some work without contracts. It is true they get bonuses which might be several times greater than their salaries, but in the end they are described as unskilled workers, and therefore are allowed to remit only 30 dinars and are required to spend the rest in Iraq.

The picture in the capital, Baghdad, embodies the problem. Hundreds of Egyptians are seen on Baghdad streets. They have arrived in Iraq without work contracts and without any definite aim. Some of them, as Ibrahim al-Dusuqi indicates, have contracts to work in the state departments, or they are appointed according to the Civil Service Law. The number of those workers decreases every year. Others work in agriculture, which is seasonal and temporary in Iraq. Others who work in

trade, blacksmithing, mechanics, whitewashing, and plumbing are employed on a daily basis. But the majority work in hotels, restaurants, stores and cafes. Some work as bootblacks and peddlers—called casual laborers in Iraq. The scene in public squares, which is where job seekers go, is somewhat different. The picture there is not purely Egyptian, but also Sudanese and Jordanian. Everyone seeks a job abroad, even if the daily wage reaches 5 dinars, which equals 2.5 Egyptian pounds. I have not found a single answer to the questions posed; namely, why stay and continue? Some want to return; some like the situation; others are not sure what to do!

Dr al-Dusuqi thinks the problem in Baghdad results from waves of Egyptian workers who have flooded Baghdad—without prior planning by the responsible officials in Iraq and Egypt. There has been no planning for what we or the Iraqis want. The problem, then, is that this human density and the marginal labor or unemployment it contains has become a consumptive burden on a community that is experiencing post-war circumstances, and which depends largely on subsidizing foodstuffs. This huge number of unemployed causes many Iraqis to raise questions, which sometimes cause continuous friction between Egyptians and Iraqis. This friction may become violent or give vent to fury resulting from daily recurring episodes. But the queries and frictions have begun to take on a social dimension, which we, here in Egypt, do not accept, and many Iraqis reject. Where are the responsible people at the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad, and why have they waited until things have gone this far?

Many Egyptian workers do not know where the [Egyptian] Embassy, consulate, or even the labor attache's office are located. In areas like al-Dawrah, al-Mahdiyah, Jisr Saddam, and al-Murabba'ah, Egyptian workers talk about protection the Sudanese and Jordanian Embassies provide for their citizens. On the other hand, they talk about Ahmad al-Sayyid 'Ali, who fell 3 months ago from the roof of a building while working. They could find no one to help him, and they eventually had to pay for his return home.

Officials in the Egyptian Consulate in Baghdad say the workers do not contact the consulate or the attache's office. They affirm that since June 1987, they have been explaining the problem and its seriousness to all Egyptian ministers who visited Baghdad. They also talked about their efforts to settle the problem of remittances.

Nabil Najm, Iraqi Ambassador in Cairo, discusses the issue in a quiet and diplomatic manner. First of all, he says the crisis or problem of Egyptian laborers in Iraq has been improperly and unfairly described for both Egyptians and Iraqis. He said Iraq places no conditions on the stay or travel of any Arab citizen. However, he wonders why an Egyptian worker remains in Iraq if he does not find work. He said the Iraqi regulations do not allow expulsion of Arab citizens from Iraq unless they commit crimes.

Asked how he describes the situation and suffering of the Egyptian workers in Iraq, Ambassador Najm said: This is an administrative issue more than a problem or a crisis. First, I admit that we should try to find a solution to the remittances problem. This is what we are currently doing. The resources of al-Rafidayn Bank are being reinforced, and the Bank of Alexandria will act as a mediator bank to deliver remittances. Indeed, the al-Rafidayn Bank began to dispense the sums transferred to it as of last November, and the al-Rashid Bank began to dispense the sums transferred to it as of last February. This reflects speedy progress in tackling the remittances issue.

I said: We must distinguish between a state's commitment to another state and a state's commitment toward citizens. What is the fault of laborers who will have to wait for a year until their receive their wages?

He said: This is correct, but these are the circumstances of our country. We did not even think of this subject during the war. However, I hope you will not forget that over a period of 10 years, the Egyptian laborers' annual remittances were over $1.2 billion.

I said the problem is not only one of remittances.

He said: Firstly, the Egyptian laborers do not cause any problems for us in Iraq. We did not prevent any Egyptian from entering Iraq. We will not place conditions on the arrival of Egyptians or Arabs in Iraq. However, we are not responsible for the laborer who does not find a job. The Iraqi Government gives priority to Egyptian laborers when it needs Arab laborers. However, we certainly want to organize the arrival of workers. The Egyptian Government as well wants to organize the travel of laborers to Iraq.

I said: Is Iraq still in need of Egyptian workers?

The ambassador said: The issue is not one of need or not, it is an issue of demand and supply. Each stage needs a certain caliber of workers. We in Iraq are continuing the construction projects. We should, however, know the technology required by these projects, which machines require fewer workers, and the availability of Iraqi workers.

I said: Apart from the issue of need, there has been an encroachment, which might not be premeditated, on Egyptian workers in Iraq.

He said: I am sorry that you describe some administrative problems as encroachment. We do not expect any harm to be done to the Egyptian workers. We should realize that disharmony might occur between Egyptians and Iraqis, and this might occur here in Cairo between an Iraqi and Egyptian or even among the Egyptians themselves. Why should we concentrate only on this?

I said: I do not mean encroachment in day-to-day affairs or abnormal actions. I mean an encroachment in work relations.

He said: The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in Iraq issued instructions. What can the labor courts do for the worker who accepts work without a contract or outside the law? When an Egyptian worker files a complaint against his employer and shows his contract, he will receive what is stated in the contract as soon as possible.

I said: But what takes place at Saddam airport is an unjustified encroachment. The workers stay at the airport for 3 or 4 days waiting for a plane to return home.

He said: The Iraqi Airline fleet is limited and has flights all over the world. We have two daily flights to Cairo, and Egypt Air also has two flights. However, because of the large number of passengers, more than 10 additional flights are scheduled to fly [to Cairo] and 4 additional flights back to Iraq. What happens is many Egyptians who work in Mosul, Irbil, Kirkuk, and Basra prefer to come to the airport 2 days before they are due to travel, forcing the airlines to schedule additional flights.

I said: But the travel agents in Baghdad are responsible for this

He said: This may be so, but why does Egypt Air not increase the number of flights daily, and why do those who want to return home not travel by land?

The dialogue ended, and the issue remains to be reviewed in light of the cordial relations between Baghdad and Cairo.

Foreign Ministry 'Following-Up'

NC1411175589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said the Foreign Ministry is following up the issue of the Egyptian workers in Iraq, adding that this topic will be discussed by the Higher Egyptian-Iraqi Committee on Saturday.

'Abd-al-Majid said he met today with Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat, chairman of the People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee, and agreed with him that he will deliver a statement before the People's Assembly at the end of this month.

'Intensive' Contacts Reported

JN1411180089 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Nov 89 pp 1, 11

[Text] Cairo and Baghdad are holding intensive contacts to reach urgent solutions to the problems of the Egyptian workers in Iraq. The Ministry of Manpower and Training has prepared an important memorandum to be discussed by the Higher Joint Egyptian-Iraqi Committee, which will meet in Cairo on 18 November under the co-chairmanship of Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Taha Yasin Ramadan.

'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq, minister of manpower and training, discussed the issue by telephone with the Iraqi labor and social affairs minister. He told AL-JUMHURIYAH that the problem of the Egyptian workers in Iraq is transient and will not affect the close brotherly relations between the two countries and peoples, but that it requires joint cooperation to settle it.

The minister also said he has agreed with the Iraqi labor and social affairs minister to postpone the repayment of any government debts between the two countries and to give priority to the payment of the Egyptian workers' remittances.

He added that the contacts also dealt with the problem of 258 Egyptian workers who were fired by one of the Iraqi factories, and following that contact, the Iraqi labor and social affairs minister issued a decision to pay all these workers' remittances before they leave Iraq within 10 days.

AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that current contacts are focused on the two countries' commitment to the social security agreement signed last Saturday, which allows the workers to transfer their social security contributions.

For his part, Nabil Najm, Iraq's ambassador in Cairo, has announced that financial reinforcements from Baghdad have begun to reach the Iraqi al-Rafidayn Bank in Cairo and Alexandria Bank, which are acting as mediators in the payment of remittances of the Egyptian workers in Iraq in order to expedite the process of payment.

The Iraqi ambassador also said that al-Rafidayn Bank has started paying the remittances deposited prior to November 1988, and that al-Rashid Bank will pay remittances deposited prior to February 1989. It is worth mentioning that 650,000 Egyptians are working in Iraq.

Egyptian, Iraqi Sources Cited

PM1511104289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Nov 89 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Responsible Iraqi Source Confirms: Instructions Have Been Issued To Resolve Egyptians' Remittances Issue"]

[Text] Baghdad, Cairo, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—A responsible Iraqi source yesterday emphasized his country's desire to resolve as soon as possible the issue of remittances by Egyptian workers who have left Iraq in the past few months, affirming that instructions have been issued to find a solution to that question guaranteeing the interests of both sides.

The Iraqi source pointed out that Egyptian-Iraqi relations are excellent, and that the two countries are working to develop them at the bilateral level and within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council, of which they are members.

He denied that the Egyptian workers could have been exposed to harassments or that their departure is the result of a crisis in relations between the two countries. He said that their departure is attributable to the law of supply and demand in the Iraqi employment market following the demobilization of thousands of Iraqi soldiers in August and also to the reopening of the Egyptian-Libyan border.

Meanwhile, the committee preparing for the Higher Joint Egyptian-Iraqi Committee proceedings, scheduled to start in Cairo next Saturday, yesterday started to discuss this issue, among others. Furthermore, a special joint consular committee will discuss the issue before its referral to meetings of the Higher Committee.

An official Egyptian source confirmed that reports by some Egyptian newspapers of the death of a large number of Egyptian workers killed in accidents in Iraq are exaggerated, pointing out that Egyptian-Iraqi relations are staunch—especially personal relations between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official yesterday stated that the information available to the Ministry indicates that a number of Egyptians residing in Iraq have decided to return to their homeland, but there are not enough seats for them on the regular flights between the two countries.

The source was commenting on statements by a Civil Aviation Authority official that the Iraqi airlines, starting tomorrow, will run 10 additional flights a day for 3 months to transfer Egyptians wishing to return to Egypt.

Hundreds of Egyptian workers have returned to Cairo over the past few months after the Iraqi Government decided to reduce their remittances to Egypt by 50 percent. It also decided to reduce the sums they are allowed to transfer for each government and public sector employee from 60 dinars a month to 40; from 60 dinars to 30 for nontechnical employees; and from 25 dinars to 10 for noncontracted workers.

In addition to the reduction of their remittances, the Egyptian workers complain that their remittances sometimes are delayed for several months, which causes hundreds of workers to assemble at the entrance of Cairo's Al-Rafidayn Bank every day, awaiting the arrival of their remittances.

An Egyptian official had said that the value of the delayed remittances totaled $350 million.

There are more than 1.5 million Egyptian workers in Iraq, large numbers of whom have returned to Egypt during the past weeks. Thousands more are thronging airline offices in Baghdad to book return seats.

Chartered Planes Return Workers

NC1411223989 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2136 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Two of the chartered planes, which Iraqi Airways decided to operate between Baghdad and Cairo to transport Egyptians wishing to return to Cairo, arrived in Cairo today. Another four flights are expected to arrive in Cairo from Baghdad this evening.

Iraqi Airways has decided to operate 10 chartered flights between Baghdad and Cairo beginning tomorrow, Wednesday, in addition to its regular flights between the two capitals to compensate for the shortage of seats due to the large number of Egyptians in Iraq wanting to return to Egypt.

Many Workers Arrive

NC1511114089 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1118 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Four Egypt Air and Iraqi Airways planes arrived in Cairo from Baghdad today with 1100 Egyptian passengers.

The daily flights are expected to reach 12, including 10 chartered flights.

Papers Criticize Lebanon's 'Awn, Praise Deputies

NC0811153789 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0642 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH have denounced General Michel 'Awn's attempts to sabotage the relaxation of tension in Lebanon following the election of a president and condemned the assault by some of his unruly followers on Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr.

AL-AKHBAR said that the assault committed by this undisciplined group and the humiliating way in which they treated Patriarch Sfayr reveal the truth about Gen 'Awn. 'Awn sought to bring Lebanon under his control and put it at his mercy. When he failed to accomplish this, he began to act desperately and recklessly.

In its editorial today, the paper stressed that 'Awn has unconsciously revealed his latent destructive nature, which disregards all values and principles as well as the interests of his homeland.

After reviewing the Arab and international welcome for the election of Rene Mu'awwad as president, AL-AKHBAR called upon the Lebanese people to stand behind those men who stood up to rescue the homeland, and asked them to recall the consequences of the negative stand that unfortunately has prevailed during the worst tragedy ever to befall a people or a nation.

Commenting on 'Awn's recklessness, AL-JUMHURIYAH noted that what 'Awn and those supporting or guiding him

do not realize is that the wheel of reform has started to turn. Although Lebanon still has a long and difficult way to go, the legitimacy, the will, and the Lebanese people's support for the cause of reforms will block any attempts to partition Lebanon and obstruct the course of history.

In its editorial today, the paper paid tribute to the Lebanese deputies whose desire and determination to introduce reforms were reflected in the election of the president, which gained Arab and international support. The paper denounced 'Awn's opposition to the reform measures and his reckless decisions to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies and prepare for new elections in January. The paper noted that Lebanon's deputies defied 'Awn's unilateral and unconstitutional decisions and started along the road of reform.

Envoy Says PLO Waiting for U.S. Reply

NC1111140489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1410 GMT on 11 November 1989 kills this item, NC1111140489, and substitutes the succeeding item, NC1111145989]

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that the PLO is waiting for the U.S. reply to the clarifications which the PLO sent to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on 23 October via Egypt.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Kamal said that these clarifications were conveyed during the visit which Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and his deputy Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, made to Egypt in October.

Sa'id Kamal explained that the Palestinian clarifications represent the basis on which the Palestinians are dealing with the five points proposed by James Baker. He pointed out that the Palestinian side has not yet become acquainted [lam yata'arraf 'aliyha] with Baker's five points. [sentence as received]

He noted that what was recently published about the Palestinian clarifications did not cite President 'Arafat personally. He added that these reports were not perfectly accurate regarding the clarifications made by the Palestinians.

Substitute for Preceding Item

NC1111145989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that the reports which have been published about inquiries [istidahat] which the PLO sent to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker included inaccurate information. He pointed out that the announcement of such inquiries is the prerogative of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in his capacity as official PLO spokesman.

Sa'id Kamal appealed to the media to be accurate in these very delicate circumstances.

He added that the inquiries which were submitted through Egypt are being jointly studied. He said that when a reply to them is received, the PLO leadership will convene a meeting to make an appropriate decision about them.

'Bright Star' Maneuvers Slated for 11-17 Nov

NC0811151789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Nov (MENA)—The Eqyptian-U.S. military exercises known as "Bright Star" will be 11-17 November. Members of the Egyptian Armed Forces and U.S. troops will take part in these exercises, which are performed to exchange expertise and gain familiarity with the most modern weapons and hardware.

Similar exercises were held in the past between Egypt and a number of Arab and foreign countries, including Italy, France, Jordan, and the Sultanate of Oman.

Sudan

SPLA Condemns Relief Flights Suspension

EA0811191289 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] today condemned Khartoum's decision to suspend relief flights to the affected areas of southern Sudan. The spokesman said the decision was regrettable and irresponsible and a flagrant use of food as a weapon in the war by the junta.

The spokesman said SPLA forces in Khartoum's Army General headquarters have informed that both SPLA-held towns of Yirol and Waat were bombed by jets from the Sudanese Air Force. It is an insult to other people's intelligence for the junta to say that they are investigating which planes bombed Yirol and Waat and for 'Umar al-Bashir himself—a person who claims to be head of state— to make a blatant lie to the international press that he has suspended all relief flights to southern Sudan until he is satisfied about the safety of relief workers.

What objective is this? To what extent will the rulers in Khartoum go on assuming that the rest of the world does not think. Here is a junta that bombs SPLA-held towns and says they are going to investigate who did the bombing. If the junta claims that they did not approve the bombings then it is even worse as this would mean they are not in command of the Sudanese Air Force.

Here is a junta that deliberately bombs SPLA-held towns in order to scare off relief workers and then the president himself tells the BBC that he has suspended relief flights to southern Sudan indefinitely because he is concerned

about the (?effect) of relief since unidentified planes are bombing SPLA-held towns—planes which are his.

Here is a junta that attacks SPLA positions in (Surkum) and when that attack is destroyed they become surprised. How does the junta think that they should attack us in (Surkum) and we offer no resistance? Here is a junta that convenes its own peace talks in Khartoum, invites guerrillas to the national capital, and when the guerrillas do not turn up in Khartoum the junta is surprised.

The spokesman concluded by assuring all those who wish the Sudan well that the SPLA is ready to enter peace talks any time, but there is just nobody to talk with. The junta is confused. They think they can bring peace through their own conferences held in Khartoum and to which SPLA is invited, if they are interested. Obviously this is not a mechanism for peace. It is Khartoum's mechanism for war which is witnessed by their unprovoked attack on SPLA positions in Surkum and their bombing of Yirol and Waat to scare off relief workers before they launch their military offensive so that there are no independent observers.

The official spokesman of the SPLA today condemned in the strongest terms the many provocations and warmongering attitudes and actions of 'Umar al-Bashir's military junta. The spokesman said the junta's stoppage of a peace process that had reached an advanced stage and replaced it with no peace shows the junta came to destroy the country through war, not save it. Other actions which portray the junta's war-mongering include the junta's meeting with the movement for only 2 days in August and, since then, has pretended that there is no war.

The junta's one-sided so-called national dialogue conference, but as things stand now there is no mechanism for peace talks, which means war [sentence as heard]. On the war front the junta attacked SPLA positions in Surkum in Blue Nile Province on 16 October 1989 and this provocation precipitated the fall of Kurmuk on 28 October 1989.

Further provocations by the junta are the junta's bombing of Yirol on 31 October 1989 and the junta's bombing of Waat on 4 November 1989 are equally condemned in the strongest terms [sentence as heard]. The spokesman said: the junta is bombing SPLA positions to stop relief food to the needy. The spokesman called on all people of goodwill to condemn the junta's use of food as a weapon.

Al-Bashir on Relief Flights

AB1011073589 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 9 Nov 89

[From the "Focus on Africa Program"]

[Text] The unofficial cease-fire in southern Sudan is in a very sick state if it is not as good as dead already. Fierce fighting has erupted in Blue Nile Province with the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels capturing the town of Kurmuk and in the far south, two rebel-held towns have been bombed and relief flights to the region suspended. And the Sudan's military leader General 'Umar al-Bashir, has been busy rallying his army to retake Kurmuk. In Khartoum, Colin Blaine talked to Gen al-Bashir through an interpreter about the situation:

[Begin recording] [Blaine] Gen al-Bashir, can I ask you, are you back at war with the SPLA because we know that there was the capture of Kurmuk and there were bombings of Yirol and Waat?

[Al-Bashir in Arabic fading into English translation] This is an aggression that took place on a Sudanese locality launched from a foreign country and we as a sovereign nation will not accept that. There is no contention, however, that Kurmuk is Sudanese territory.

[Blaine] What is the significance to you of the fall of Kurmuk because it is after all outside southern Sudan, it is in the north?

[Al-Bashir] If it be in the north or in the south of Sudan, it is a Sudanese, it is a Sudanese town.

[Blaine] Does it worry you that you have lost a town so far north?

[Al-Bashir] As a military [as heard], I know the nature of war. Sometimes you gain, sometimes you lose. However, we have not lost the war.

[Blaine] What about the bombings of Yirol and Waat? Did the Sudan Government carry out those raids?

[Al-Bashir] We are still investigating who launched the attack on Yirol.

[Blaine] But if you are investigating, you must know whether it was your own people. Was it an authorized bombing or was it an outside country?

[Al-Bashir] Up till now, the authorities in the Armed Forces are convinced that they have given no permission to Sudanese aircraft to bomb any place at all.

[Blaine] So, if it were Sudanese planes which did the bombing, it must have been unauthorized?

[Al-Bashir] If it is determined that this attack was carried out by Sudanese, they will be subject to investigation. But again, up until now, we are positive that these were not Sudanese planes.

[Blaine] Relief flights into southern towns were suspended. Some people have said it is because you are preparing for war in those areas.

[Al-Bashir] Whatever is being said up until now that we are preparing for war in southern Sudan is incorrect. There is this risk of our national space being penetrated and therefore because we care for the people who served

in the relief agencies and such people, we are going to stop this until we are sure that these citizens are not in danger. [end recording]

Civilians in Kurmuk Reportedly 'All Right'

EA0911162789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] in Blue Nile Province has sent in 173 names of civilians who were found in Kurmuk after the capture of Kurmuk on 28 October 1989. The relatives and friends of the 173 people are hereby informed that these people are all right and taken care of by the SPLA. [passage omitted]

Commander Assures Return of Kurmuk 'Shortly'

EA1011194789 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] The commander of the 14th Infantry Division at Damazin, Major General PSC [passed staff college] (Ad 'Abd al-Fattah Hawwari), addressed yesterday a procession organized by the citizens of Rusayris town in denunciation of the aggression on Kurmuk. He referred to the visit of the president of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] to the frontline forces recently and assured the return of Kurmuk shortly.

Al-Bashir Meets New Workers' Union Leader

EA1011143589 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum 9 Nov (SUNA)—The leadership of the workers' union has announced that all Sudanese public sector workers will donate (?2 days) salary to the people's Armed Forces. The announcement was made after Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the chairman of the Revolution Command Council, met Muhammad 'Uthman Jamma, chairman of the preparatory committee of the General Federation of Sudanese Workers' Unions, who told the press that the union had decided to stand with the Armed Forces and to support the peace efforts exerted by the government. Mr Jamma added that he and Lt Gen 'Umar had discussed issues relevant to the workers' union in Sudan.

Ethnic Clash in Kurdufan Province Reported

AB1011112789 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 10 Nov 89

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] In Sudan, as the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] movement continues its renewed military campaign in the south, the peace of another part of the country, the central part, has been shattered. In Kurdufan Province, reports say that armed local Arab militiamen shot to death over 100 Nubans in the town of (Lagawa) while the police stood watching but took no action. Guan Overt sent this report from Khartoum:

[Begin studio announcer recording] There had been unconfirmed reports about the incidents all this week. But now eyewitnesses from the area have begun to arrive in Khartoum. They said the incident was provoked by a fight between a Nuba girl and Arab children on Monday, October 31. When the girl's father turned up armed to confront the Arabs, he was said to have been shot in cold blood. From then on, said the witnesses, it was as if local militia were looking for any excuse to shoot Nuba men, women, and children. The whole of (Lagawa) was affected, with Nubas and all non-Arabs rushing to the town's court for shelter. There, they were surrounded by the militia who did not allow their prisoners food or water. Anyone attempting to escape was shot, according to the eyewitness.

After taking control of the town, the militia men then went out to nearby Nuba villages looting them and killing some of the inhabitants. Survivors fled into the mountains. The small local police force was said to have remained neutral in the incident. An Army unit sent to restore order inthe town had not arrived by yesterday. (Lagawa) is an agricultural center which several cotton [words indistinct]. It is inhabitated jointly by Nubas and the nomadic Arab (Messiria). The area had been relatively peaceful until increased activities in the Nuba Mountains by the Sudan's People's Liberation Army. The nomadic Arab tribes, who had been organized by the Sudanese Government against the SPLA, associated the Nuba people with the SPLA activity. This led to reports of fights between Arabs and Nubas in various parts of the mountains. But there had not been wholesale massacres before. Although SPLA activity has not yet reached the (Lagawa) area itself, it is likely that this latest incident will drive local Nubas into the SPLA camp. [end recording]

SPLA Comments on Popular Defense Forces

EA0911150889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Nov 89

[From the "With the Battalions" program]

[Text] Comrades in struggle: The latest military announcement by Brigadier 'Umar al-Bashir, the leader of the junta, highlighted yet another sinister move by the junta to return the militia to help its dwindling army in pursuit of its unjustified war against the people. 'Umar al-Bashir noisily [word indistinct] that his terror squads, expected to come mainly from the Muslim fundamentalist youth euphemistically referred to as the Popular Defense Force [PDF], (?to) deploy itself in the west and southeast of Sudan to help curbing the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] advance in those areas.

Anybody interested in Sudanese politics will note that this so-called PDF was the direct creation of the National Islamic Front [NIF] before 'Umar al-Bashir took over on 30 June this year. It was commanded by

Major General, retired, Muhammad Hasan 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, the former military ruler who took over from Numayri. The chief architect of this force was Dr Hasan al-Turabi, the leader of the NIF now in mock arrest by the present junta. The finances of this sectarian military force were and are still the Islamic banks in Sudan and abroad.

When the present junta took over on 30 June and in a bid to look for support from the people within and outside Sudan, 'Umar al-Bashir decreed the disbandment of all the militia forces and made no mention of the pro-NIF militia, the so-called PDF. The leader of the Ansar militia of the Ummah party was subsequently arrested while the leader of the Muslim brothers' militia, Maj Gen, retired, Siwar al-Dhahab was left at large.

This force, therefore, is not a PDF as claimed by 'Umar al-Bashir, but rather an Islamic defense force created to wage a jihad, Islamic holy war, and nothing more.

Brig 'Umar al-Bashir actually is executing the laid-down program and plans of the NIF. The so-called PDF is but another semi-autonomous battalion of the sectarian army that will be heavily armed by the NIF to replace the national army and to wage a jihad for total Islamization of Sudan and Africa south of the Sahara. This has been and still remains the dream of the NIF.

All the youths that have been called upon to come and be enrolled in this sectarian army will have to become Muslims and members of the NIF to be able to execute 'Umar al-Bashir's mad war in the mistaken belief that they are fighting a holy war.

This announcement to recreate the paramilitary defense force has sparked off a series of questions from the cautious Sudanese people. The first question is: What has happened to the national army that the civilian population has been called upon to help fight the SPLA? Why is this force to be formed in a specific area rather than two particular areas?

Both political and military analysts say this mobilization campaign is the last attempt left for the junta since the first campaign for the recapture of Kurmuk met with no reception from the public and the security forces as well. The PDF, therefore, if formed, will be charged with the task of curbing SPLA advances in Western and in Blue Nile Provinces in accordance with Khartoum's policy of using civilians as shields for its soldiers against the SPLA. It is generally expected that once in the battlefield the PDF will have to do most of the fighting against the SPLA forces.

These innocent, ill-trained, and inexperienced civilian soldiers of 'Umar al-Bashir, however, should understand that their enrollment and their crossing to the SPLA-held territories will constitute death's signature to their own (?warrants). The SPLA forces of the New Funj in Blue Nile Province and of New Kush in southern Kurdufan are no match. They are ready to strike hard at whoever provokes them and are ready to fight to the finish of the liberation of the motherland from sectarians.

'Umar al-Bashir's recruitment campaign for his militia of the NIF has gone as far as including the refugee youth from the war-affected areas of the Sudan. Reliable sources in Khartoum have revealed this to With the Battalions, exposing 'Umar al-Bashir's sinister plans to force the refugee youths to join his militia.

There are also reports of contacts between the junta and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] to repatriate Sudanese refugees from Uganda to Juba or Khartoum. According to the "(?GUIDE)" newspaper published in Kampala, Uganda, on 1 November 1989, and I quote: The new Sudanese military government is planning to repatriate all Sudanese refugees now in camps in Uganda back to Sudan. The Sudanese refugees in Uganda now amounting to over 60,000 will be resettled in camps in Juba and Khartoum until peace is restored in their respective home areas.

And of course, the paper also quoted the commissioner for the displaced in the Ministry of Relief and Displaced, Mr Muhammad al-Hasan, as saying that the Sudanese Government was already in contact with the UNHCR on the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Uganda. The plan, he said, is expected to be executed in the near future, but he did not give specific dates.

Mr Ali Hasan said: The issue of repatriating Sudanese refugees from Uganda was initiated and is being dealt with by a member of the ruling NSRCC [National Salvation Revolution Command Council], Brigadier Dominic Kassiano. No doubt Brig Dominic Kassiano would want to remain or to maintain his position in their corrupt council at any cost. He would not care even if the 60,000 lives were to be repatriated to hell so long as he maintains his position. But the question still remains: What benefit is it to Brig Kassiano if he gets the post and loses his people? We suggest that the authorities concerned with refugee affairs investigate this treachery by the brigadier and save the lives of more than 60,000 innocent Sudanese from being repatriated into danger. Perhaps the brigadier in question is ignorant of 'Umar's plans for war.

On the 21st of last month, 'Umar al-Bashir's forces bombarded our positions at (Gumbo) near Juba for 4 hours using heavy artillery. On 31 October 'Umar's fighter planes bombed Yirol and on 4 November 1989 the same planes bombed Waat. And if those refugees are to be repatriated to Juba, as alleged, and 'Umar again ordered his troops to bombard the SPLA positions near Juba, what is the guarantee that the SPLA will not retaliate this time with a heavy bombardment of Juba?

Whether those refugees are repatriated to Sudan or not they will still remain refugees because they will not be in their home areas. We suggest that those refugees who ran to Uganda from either Torit, Katire, Nimule, or any other town on the eastern bank of the Nile should return

to their home areas, since these areas are now more free and relatively peaceful than Juba or Khartoum.

As for those who ran from Kajo Kaji and Yei areas we advise them to either move behind the SPLA lines or remain in their country of refuge until relative peace returns to their home areas. They should not accept any cheap propaganda by the junta and its puppets to repatriate them to Juba or Khartoum.

Lastly, since the junta has banned the relief flights to the south with what is it going to feed these people since everybody in Juba depends on relief food? Where is the junta going to get food for these people, or does it just want to repatriate these people to die of hunger in Juba?

SPLA Forces Claim Capture of 5th Garrison

NC1311162589 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Nairobi, Nov 13 (AFP)—Sudanese rebels Monday said they had captured a fifth garrison town in Blue Nile Province, close to the Ethiopian border, the latest in a series of victories reported in the past two weeks.

The radio of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), monitored here, said its forces had Sunday taken the strategic town of Koriabuz.

The town was among three named as the next targets by rebel radio last Thursday when it announced the taking of the three garrisons of Chali El Fil, Dora, and Belwanshu.

The radio had Thursday said that commander of the "New Funj" forces William Nyuan Bany had opened negotiations with "patriotic elements" in the garrisons of Koriabuz, Maban, and Qeissan.

Negotiations were now continuing in both Maban and Qeissan and prospects were "excellent," the radio said Monday.

The SPLA captured the government-held town of Kurmuk on October 28, inflicting its first defeat against the government of 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir since he took power June 30.

Both sides accused the other of breaking a six-month cease-fire which had preceded fresh fighting in Blue Nile Provice.

The official spokesman of the SPLA, quoted by the radio Monday, also condemned in "the strongest terms", the junta's "massacre of innocent civilians" in El-Logowa in Kordofan Province, 620 kms (388 miles) southwest of the capital on October 30.

The radio said the massacre had been triggered by the announcement by Khartoum of the setting up of a Popular Defence Force.

"Criminal elements in El-Logowa took it into to their heads that the government calling for popular defence meant to kill Nubas," the radio said, referring to the reported killing of 68 members of the African Nuba tribe by members of the Arab Missyria tribal militia.

"This makes the junta equally criminal and accountable for the massacre as the militias who did the killing," the radio said.

It challenged junta leader 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir to accept an international human rights commission to investigate the massacre.

"The government of 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir is a curse on the Sudan," the rebel broadcast concluded. "We call on the Sudanese people to get rid of 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir and his gang of National Islamic Front fundamentalists before they plunge the country into bloody civil war."

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 for a secular state in Sudan to free the black mainly Christian and animist south from Arab and Islamic domination by the north.

London Paper Interviews NSRCC Member

PM0911144589 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 14 Nov 89 pp 30-31

[Interview with Brigadier General Ibrahim Nayil Adam, member of the Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution in Sudan, by Kamal Hamid in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Hamid] The entire world is preoccupied with the talk about political prisoners. How many of them are there? And will they be detained for long?

[Adam] Present detainees comprise senior former politicians and officials. They are being interrogated fairly and comprehensively in order to determine the aspects of corruption and the public funds wasted and so on. Then they will either stand fair trials by civilian judges or will be released. It is a matter of time, and that will not take long.

[Hamid] A leaflet by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was distributed in which he said that he was interrogated and provoked by security organ members.

[Adam] A normal investigation was conducted with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and there was no provocation or torture. And I confirm to you that the body which interrogated him was not the national security organ, which I have the honor to be in charge of. We have several security and investigation organs, some of which belong to the Interior Ministry and some to the Armed Forces' military intelligence. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] People have talked a great deal about party militias and arms, but we have heard no figures.

[Adam] We have found papers and documents as well as names listed in an orderly manner, and that is now being

analyzed. As for the arms, some have been confiscated and we are searching for the other arms.

[Hamid] Have you uncovered any form of hostile action against the revolution?

[Adam] Thank God until now the revolution has not been exposed to any major hostile action. But we are keeping our eyes on some forms of hostile activities which have so far been confined to meetings being held and leaflets being distributed. Spreading rumors and publishing reports or fabricated leaflets have nothing to do with reality. [passage omitted]

[Hamid] What is your view of the constant accusation that you are affiliated with the National Islamic Front [NIF]?

[Adam] That is an ingenuous accusation whose objectives are known. Let the people look at our orientations and those of the front in order to know the difference. As for our being religious, that is something of which we are proud. Islam in Sudan did not emerge with the NIF's launch.

[Hamid] What about security conditions in south Kordofan, where you come from?

[Adam] The rebels moved into south Kordofan in 1985, namely after the attack on the al-Qurdud area during the transional government period. Then the conflict continued among the tribes, and regrettably it was kindled by the the ruling parties. Then we started to take steps to reconcile the tribes, which all, as we discovered, condemn the rebelion. At present we are holding extensive meetings to that end in preparation for a rally in Kordofan to resolve all security, tribal, and citizenship problems.

Qatar

Egyptian Interior Minister Visits; Talks Held

Amir Receives Mubarak Message

JN1211112889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Doha, 12 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani has received a verbal message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the strong Qatari-Egyptian relations and ways to enhance and bolster them within the framework of joint action.

The message was conveyed by Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr who is currently visiting Doha, during a reception accorded to him by the Qatari amir today.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, interior minister; and members of the delegation accompanying the Egyptian minister.

Interior Minister Meets Egyptian

JN1211120589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Doha, 12 Nov (WAKH)—Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani today met with Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr, who is currently visiting Doha.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral ties in various security domains and ways to enhance and promote them.

The meeting was attended by Egyptian ambassador to Qatar 'Isam al-Din Hawwas and a number of Interior Ministry officials.

Egyptian Minister Interviewed on Ties

NC1211100989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0818 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Doha, 12 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr has affirmed that Egypt maintains full security cooperation with Qatar and with Arab countries in general to confront the dangers threatening Arab societies.

In an interview with the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ published today, he said this cooperation is progressing well in various fields, especially in combating drugs and terrorism. He asserted that coordination is indispensable at this stage to ensure continued security for all Arab countries.

Badr, who is on an official visit to Qatar, was asked about a reported deal with Israel over an Israeli drug trafficker who had been sentenced to death. He denied these reports and noted that some papers exaggerate in publishing exciting but false claims.

Badr said that drug smugglers sentenced to death will be executed as soon as the sentences are upheld and the executions ordered by judicial authorities.

He denied reports that he is against the religious currents in Egypt. He said: No one can oppose a prudent religious current or the performance of religious rituals, for we are Muslims and support any pious religious person performing his rituals. However, we reject extremism and the concealment of falsehood under a religious robe.

The interior minister said in his interview, which was carried by QNA, that a dialogue with genuine religious currents should be implemented through an exchange of views and facts. The extremists, whose goals are political, reject dialogue and offer no solution but violence, he noted.

Commenting on the continued application of the emergency law despite repeated calls for its abolition, he said the law is applied only to terrorists, drug dealers, murderers, and those who abduct women by force. He stressed that this law has never been applied against any person because of his opinions.

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Comments on U.S. Remarks on Arms Deal

LD1411221189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Commenting on media reports of statements by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Richard Clarke in reply to questions about the justification for the tanks deal between Saudi Arabia and the United States, a responsible source told SPA today that "Because of Mr Clarke's hints that Saudi Arabia could face a military threat on its northern border, and the possibility that the source of that threat could be fraternal Iraq, we would like to stress, within our firm denial of such suspicions, that the fraternal ties and existing close relations, based on good-neighborliness and mutual respect, between Saudi Arabia and Iraq are very strong".

The source added: "Relations between the two fraternal countries at all personal and official levels are growing stronger thanks to President Saddam Husayn's wisdom, far-sightedness, and good understanding of the circumstances and conditions of the Arab nation, and because of his honesty and patience. These attributes were praised by his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud in his comprehensive address to Lebanese parliamentarians few days ago in Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah as an expression of the undoubted friendship linking the two honored leaders."

Concluding his coments, the source said: "The policies of Saudi Arabia, which is well known for its firm principles, stem from its Islamic faith, which is the basis of the management of its internal affairs and of the

construction of its foreign relations. This has enabled Saudi Arabia to enjoy the trust of its brothers and the respect of its friends. Saudi Arabia does not intend any evil for any one, does not approve of interference in the affairs of others, and does not hesitate in helping and supporting any effort which serves the causes of the Arab and Islamic nations and which will achieve victory for their people anywhere and at any time."

Rabin, Shomron Respond to Killing of Reservist

TA1411155189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The defense minister has said that uprising activists in the territories have received instructions to use firearms, even though they have not been issued a public call to do so. They have been instructed to stage terrorist attacks tomorrow, 15 November, to mark the anniversary of the pronouncement in Algiers of the Palestinian state. Minister Rabin said that a public announcement to resort to firearms would denote admission that the intifadah's modus operandi had failed. This is the reason why the Palestinians have been talking about holding parades and hoisting flags tomorrow, but the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has reinforced its troops and will not allow this either, Rabin noted.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that, appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Minister Rabin said that the Palestinian organizations are considering ways to pursue the intifadah. They feel that world media and the U.S. Administration have become tired, and that is why they have begun contemplating a civil uprising. They know, however, that they will not be able to pull this off. The tax revolt failed, and the inhabitants of Bayt Jala and Bethlehem hurried to pay their debts. The uprising leaders also failed in their struggle against the exit permits in Gaza, and strike days have decreased from 5 days a month to only 2, Rabin said.

The defense minister added that the assassination of Palestinians increased as a result of the wish of the leaders of the uprising to stir the inhabitants to take a more active role in the intifadah. As for the political process, Minister Rabin said that the PLO has been adopting extreme stances and giving Egypt a hard time. According to him, there is no concord between the PLO and Egypt at the moment. The improvement in East-West relations has detracted from the importance of the conflict in our region, and that is why Israel should not base its relationship with the United States only on the premise of a conflict between the superpowers.

Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron said he hoped the IDF would capture the terrorists who murdered Yisra'el Trachtenbroit. The inhabitants of the territories use violent means, such as throwing stones and setting tires on fire, but there are also hit teams that try to murder soldiers in the territories and within the boundaries of the Green Line. The chief of staff noted that now that not too many inhabitants take part in the demonstrations the PLO has issued orders to perpetrate murders in order to put the intifadah on the international agenda. Lt Gen Shomron warned that all those who try to attack civilians and soldiers would not come out unscathed. Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reports that the chief of staff made these remarks in an address to the Jerusalem Economic Club.

Jihad Claims Responsibility

TA1511103689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] The AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI weekly in East Jerusalem today received an announcement that squads belonging to the Islamic Jihad in Palestine are responsible for Monday night's attack in Gaza in which the soldier Yisra'el Trachtenbroit was killed.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the announcement said that a squad called the Limassol Unit carried out the attack as retribution for the death of three PLO members in a car bomb explosion in Cyprus several years ago. The squad members announced that they would continue to carry out similar acts of revenge.

IDF Clamps Down on Gaza After Soldier's Death

TA1411114389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Brigadier General Tzvi Poleg, commander of the Gaza Strip, has said that the IDF [Israel Defense Force] will reexamine the procedures governing unescorted car travel in certain sections of Gaza. He told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that the soldiers had been riding in an unescorted jeep and that except for a few sections, there are no orders about escorted car travel.

Brig Gen Poleg said that the IDF has closed off the Gaza Strip, stepped up activities along the Green Line and the Egyptian border, and imposed a naval blockade. All these measures are designed to prevent the terrorists' escape. The footprints of the terrorists led to the village of al-Shaykh 'Ajlin, Brig Gen Poleg noted.

Brig Gen Poleg emphasized that the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip must bear in mind that if they change their modus operandi, the IDF will react accordingly. Nevertheless, he believes it is still too early to point to a change in the nature of the intifadah and said that the IDF is still fighting against a popular uprising.

[In a related report, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 14 November adds that "at around 1000 this morning, the IDF blew up the house the terrorists used for the ambush." The report goes on to say that "no dramatic events have been registered today, except for one person wounded in Gaza this morning."]

Peres Invited on Official Visit to Poland

TA1311154689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister Shim'on Peres has been officially invited to visit Poland. The invitation extended to him by the Polish representative in Israel notes that meetings have been scheduled for him with Prime Minister Mazowiecki, the deputy prime minister, the finance minister, the foreign minister, the secretary of the Communist Party, and former Prime Minister Rakowski. Our correspondent Ze'ev

Kohen has been told that Mr Peres' departure for Warsaw has been set for the last week of this month.

Security Heightened for Palestinian Anniversary

TA1511055789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has augmented its forces in the territories on the first anniversary of the declaration of a Palestinian state. Blockades were set up on roads in many locations, and a curfew was clamped on all Gaza Strip refugee camps, as well as on Khan Yunus, Rafah, three Gaza city neighborhoods, and the village of Bani Suhaylah. Our correspondents Moti Amir and Hasan Abu-Zayid report that the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip yesterday continues. Several locations and refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria are under curfew.

There is a reinforced police presence in Jerusalem and other places to prevent rioting. Commissioner David Kraus said that so far there is no intention to limit Arabs' access to the capital. East Jerusalem schools will be opened as usual.

The defense minister said that IDF soldiers were given orders to prevent any attempt to cause a deterioration in the security situation in the territories. He said there are reports about plans or wishes by terrorist groups to carry out attacks with live ammunition or with other means. The soldiers are prepared for such a possibility.

USSR Putting Off Response on Working Team

TA1411173189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The foreign minister says the Soviet Union has been putting off a response regarding his agreement with Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to set up a working team to discuss issues pertaining to both countries. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen notes that Minister Arens made these remarks during a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

The foreign minister added that, despite pressures exerted by the Arab states, countries around the world have been resuming relations with Israel. Several countries in Europe and Africa will soon resume relations with us, Arens said.

Cabinet Decision Not Beginning of Peace Process

TA0811154689 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Nov 89 p 7

[Editorial: "The Israeli Agreement and the Peace Process"]

[Text] More than 5 months after the Israeli political initiative comprising the concept of holding elections in the occupied territories was put forward, the Israeli Inner Cabinet accepted U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's modified plan. The Cabinet linked this acceptance with the attempt to obtain guarantees from the U.S. Administration that the PLO will not take part in the peace process.

The Israeli agreement does not mean that the peace process has been launched. Israel has agreed to hold a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo to discuss only the procedure for holding elections in the occupied territories, while a peace process means that all parties to the conflict have agreed to create a new political, economic, and geographic situation. These issues though have yet to be addressed.

The peace process in the Middle East region necessitates an effective and serious participation by the regional parties to the conflict, including the PLO and Israel, in addition to the great powers. In order that some people will not think that the peace process has actually begun, we have to recall the points in Baker's plan.

One point concerns the roles of Israel and Egypt in the peace process. The second one stipulates that Egypt will consult with the Palestinians on all matters. The third point affirms the principle of holding a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo to discuss the procedure of holding elections in the occupied territories. The fourth point concerns the arrival of the Israeli delegation to meet a Palestinian delegation after Israel's agreement on the members of the Palestinian delegation. The fifth point calls for a meeting between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state in Washington.

These points do not address in any way the basic principles that are necessary for peacemaking, such as "land for peace" and the final status of the occupied territories. It is worth noting that every word in Baker's points can be interpreted in different ways. This means that there will be an increase in linguistic diplomacy and in the sphere of interpretations.

At any rate, just as the world waited for the Israeli response, it is now awaiting the PLO's reply. The international community realizes that the peace process cannot be launched without the participation of both Israel and the PLO.

We must not forget in this context that whatever is taking place currently in the Middle Eastern arena is connected to procedural matters that have no relation to the content of the talks or even their form. Everything that has been put forward so far focuses on the procedure of holding elections in the occupied territories. If procedural matters have been addressed in such a way by all the parties, what will the situation be when questions of content have to be addressed, such as the principle of "land for peace" and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination?

Editorial Studies Responses to Baker Plan

TA0911152489 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 8 Nov 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "When Israel's Acceptance Is Rejection"]

[Text] There is a very short distance between Israel's acceptance of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's modified plan and its rejection. This can be summarized, as is the norm of the present Israeli coalition government, in the traditional Shamirian "no." However, this constantly available possibility retreated this time within the context of an ambiguous "yes" tied to a list of clarifications. This response was basically intended to benefit Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during his upcoming visit to Washington and his meeting with U.S. President George Bush in the middle of next month [date as published].

Washington was completely satisfied with this Israeli "yes." This was confirmed officially two days ago when Secretary of State James Baker himself said that Washington will "study carefully" Israel's request for written guarantees to exclude the PLO from the expected negotiations in the region.

Apparently both the United States and Israel were expecting the PLO to categorically reject this "game" since the aim of the players was its exclusion. The PLO, however, did not realize this expectation and did exactly the opposite. The PLO conveyed its explicit stance to Washington in the form of seven points that clearly define this stance and affirm the legitimacy of the PLO's existence as a major party in all negotiations. These negotiations should eventually lead to an international conference under the auspices of the Security Council's five permanent member states and the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, with the aim of reaching a comprehensive solution and establishing peace in the region through this framework.

Since Washington has officially undertaken to study the Israeli Government's demands or clarifications, it is requested within the same context to equally study the Palestinian points or questions. If the U.S. Administration fails to give a quick response, its entire plan, whether modified or not, will mean nothing more than another episode of a "public relations" series about the Palestinian problem's rumbling volcano!

Palestinians Told Not To Rely on 'U.S. Mirage'

TA0911164689 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Nov 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "So That We Will Not Run After the U.S. Mirage"]

[Text] If the United States and its leaders have made us "accustomed" to anything, it is firmness in their positions, especially when this concerns the Arab-Israeli conflict. Hence, we were not surprised two days ago when Washington used the veto against a Security Council resolution calling for the return of all properties and funds that Israel confiscated from the Palestinians because of their refusal to pay taxes.

The Security Council's 14 members had voted for this resolution, which condemns Israel and its practices in the occupied territories. This is the third time this year that the United States has used the veto to prevent Israel's condemnation.

What is striking is that this veto came from a superpower committed—as it constantly declares—to the efforts aimed at achieving peace in this disturbed region of the world. There is unanimity that such conduct deprives it of any credibility, since its clear bias in favor of Israel does not leave any room to trust all its efforts and initiatives aimed at narrowing the gap between Israel and the Palestinians in their complicated differences.

This "act" by the United States coincides with its demand from the Palestinians to show flexibility in their position and to accept U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five points concerning elections in the occupied territories!

Anyone who thinks that the United States is really serious in playing the role of an "honest broker" between Israel and the Palestinians is making a mistake. The United States is biased from top to bottom in its blind support for Israel, its close ally. Naturally, this is its own concern. But we the Palestinians should be aware of this reality, and our decisions and deeds must be based on this principle. The Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is an indirect dialogue with Israel, because what the U.S. side raises in these meetings is no more than the Israeli viewpoint, and this is no secret. Moreover, Baker's five points are nothing more than "cosmetic clarifications" aimed at marketing Shamir's plan, which Shamir put forward last May. All these initiatives have one objective—namely, implementing autonomy as stipulated in the Camp David accords!

We support the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and any meeting with the adversaries, but we should not be deceived by elegantly articulated words. The United States has until this very moment not recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and unequivocally rejects any plan leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state or even granting the right of self-determination to the Palestinians.

The United States declares unambiguously that it will not pressure Israel into accepting any plan that does not satisfy Israel. It also refuses to upgrade the level of contacts with the PLO or even allow Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to enter the United States.

Therefore, we must be honest with ourselves and come to terms with the fact that no good will come from the United States and that the leopard cannot change its spots. Our only remaining hope is our power to persevere

and continue the struggle until we achieve our objectives, relying on God and our own strength, not on the U.S. mirage!

Positive U.S. Response to PLO Questions Urged

TA1411174889 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Nov 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Questions and the Delayed American Answers"]

[Text] The PLO has so far not received any U.S. response to its questions, which it posed to the U.S. Administration in the wake of Executive Committee meetings in Tunis that were devoted to discussing U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan. The Israeli Government's response to this plan, following the introduction of modifications to it, has emptied the plan of any content and rendered it a mere copy of "Shamir's plan," which is rejected on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

There is no doubt that the U.S. response to the Palestinian questions will determine the region's fate and its political outlines, for the U.S. Administration's rejection of the Palestinian demands will lead the region to a new cycle of wars whose destructive perils—not just for the region but also for the peace of the entire world—no one can prophesy.

Hence, there was an intense Palestinian keenness not to say a final "no" to the Baker plan, so that the PLO would decisively and unambiguously become acquainted with the U.S. Administration's real intentions through several legitimate questions. The PLO cannot deal with the Baker plan without a positive response to these questions. The reason for this is that the PLO cannot jump into the unknown without knowing what lies ahead. It must know what its role in the supposed negotiations is and it must have the right to choose its representatives. This right constitutes one of the principles which under no circumstances the PLO can relinquish.

This Palestinian position, conscious of the games between Washington and Tel Aviv, has returned the ball to the U.S. and Israeli court. The conditional Israeli acceptance of the Baker plan was intended to return the ball to the Palestinian court so that the Palestinian side would be portrayed as impeding the peace process.

If reports carried yesterday by news agencies are true—reports that say the U.S. Administration intends to respond positively to the Palestinian demands and is refusing to accommodate all the Israeli demands—one can say that the region is on the threshhold of important and decisive developments that will create new dreams for the coming generations. These developments can lead the region to security, peace, and stability, and remove from it the specter of wars which have no benefit except to increase pain, waste potential, and destroy the achievements of the nations of the region and the world.

Writer Analyzes Intifadah, Palestinian Unity

TA0811113789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Nov 89 p 11

[Commentary by Ori Nir: "Hour of the Extremists"]

[Text] The progress toward the opening of a political process based on the Baker initiative finally brought a feeling of relief to the territories, accompanied, however, by a certain degree of fear. After long months of a political deep freeze, there are signs of hope for the beginning of a process. At the same time, the major question is: How will the extreme Palestinians act?

The intifadah has been trudging in muddy waters during the past several months. The lack of political progress, the weariness of the population, the weakening of the constraints on Palestinian unity, and the tough policy adopted by the authorities have created well-known phenomena and processes of internalizing the intifadah. Serious internal disagreements and murders of real and imaginary collaborators have prevailed, accompanied by the restrained anger of large sections of the population at the leadership abroad and local activists.

The growing frustration has threatened to turn into despair.

An armed struggle is still not an everyday event, and it is hard to believe that such a development is at all possible.

A mass popular uprising through nonviolent means (such as collective disobedience and a general tax revolt), which is the way to escalate the intifadah, is the sort of rule the public cannot endure. In contrast to refraining from the option of escalation through armed struggle, the Palestinian leadership would very much like to escalate the intifadah through disobedience. Nonetheless, it is well aware of the fact that it cannot garner the support of the people in undertaking such a painful and difficult burden. Only a development in the political sphere could give the population some fresh air.

Such a development, however, involves large risks. The issue of the composition of the Palestinian delegation is a source of internal stress and of personal and public debates in the territories. The issues related to the essence of the process are a source of serious organizational disagreements in the PLO, and—to a certain extent—in the territories. The question, therefore, is just what influence do the Palestinian opposition elements have? What is their ability to damage the diplomatic moves of the pragmatists in the organization in the future?

Leftist elements within the PLO are not too strong. Na'if Hawatimah's Democratic Front is walking hand in hand with Fatah, and its representatives are active partners to all of the diplomatic moves of Yasir 'Arafat and his men. George Habash's Popular Front is still having a hard time because of its doctrinal determination to maintain Palestinian unity of ranks. Habash makes it clear that

"when we speak of the importance of national Palestinian unity, we do not do it for 'Arafat's black eyes, but because of the eyes of the children and youths throwing stones at the enemy, who see 'Arafat as their leader...." We must remain in a framework of national unity," Habash says, "because separation is even worse" (from an interview he gave the Lebanese AL-SAFIR newspaper last January).

There is a limit to the Popular Front's willingness to maintain unity, and it can hurt potential candidates for talks with Israel. Palestinian observers, however, believe that if indeed real political progress is made, and Palestinian opinion makes it clear that it has broad support, Habash would think twice before he risks losing the remnants of the support for his organization in the territories, which is declining anyway.

The secular Palestinian organizations that do not belong to the PLO (such as Ahmad Jibril and others) have no support whatsoever in the territories. Their influence can be measured only in terms of their ability to attempt to torpedo political movements through extravagant terror acts outside Israel, assassinations abroad, and so on. The PLO leadership is ignoring these organizations' positions in its policy-making considerations.

The Palestinian fundamentalist camp, which enjoys considerable support from Palestinians in the territories, is a potential opposition element. Should HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists choose to torpedo the political process, the PLO would find it very hard to fight and neutralize them. At the same time, there are indications that HAMAS does not reject outright the possibility of discussing the elections, holding them, and even taking part in them (remarks to this effect were made by several organization leaders in the past several months).

In the past few months, meanwhile, a new opposition element has been forming in the territories, one which to a certain extent is more dangerous than all its predecessors. These are the local hoodlums—members of street gangs who are often equipped with firearms and guided by sheer brutal force. For example, in Nabulus there are gangs whose leaders and activists declare identification with Fatah. At the same time, they do not refrain from expressing blatant disregard of the organization's leaders, while bragging to journalists that they disobey 'Arafat's orders. It seems that the dynamics of combining the euphoria of sheer power and the sweet feeling of underground activity, coupled with an extreme drive to purify society through the most disgraceful and loathsome means, turned some of these activists into reckless, murdering bullies.

'Arafat is well aware of this phenomenon. He referred to it in a special leaflet issued on the occasion of the 22d month of the uprising. In the leaflet he states that all of the strike committees and forces should be joined under a single umbrella, and that all of the wanted youths on the run from Israeli authorities should join these committees. It seems that so far his call has remained unheeded.

The process the Palestinian arena is undergoing is, therefore, a deepening contrast between internal PLO dynamics and those in the territories. The tightening of the mechanism controlling internal conflicts within the PLO abroad (a process to which several examples can be found) meets a countermovement tearing down these mechanisms in Palestinian society in the territories.

A political process would certainly introduce a new feeling of optimism to the territories. It can, however, exacerbate internal tension if a way is not found to improve and tighten those mechanisms that should be in control of the increasing conflicts.

Notables from the territories, who were named as potential candidates for participation in the Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel, recently have expressed to us that they truly fear for their lives if it is not made clear in advance (and not post-factum) that the PLO favors their inclusion in the delegation. They know that this desire is far from coming true.

HA'ARETZ on Adapting to Changes in U.S., USSR

TA0911153589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Nov 89 p 13

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Strategic Cooperation—Against Whom?"]

[Text] About a year ago, after a meeting between the U.S. and Israeli delegations at strategic cooperation talks between the two countries, several U.S. representatives reached the conclusion that the meetings should be less frequent and be held annually instead of biannually.

The U.S. representatives felt that the same issues were being discussed all the time, nothing new was being decided, and, anyway, issues of principle are decided between ministers or heads of governments. When the rumor was leaked to the Israeli side, it expressed its opposition.

The Israeli side does not want any change in the pattern of discussions and meetings. Jerusalem fears that if there is a change it will be for the worse, and it will be difficult to get the previous situation restored. This week's Washington meeting between the two groups is a continuation of the old tradition of the biannual meeting.

When the accord on Israeli-U.S. strategic cooperation was signed in 1981, the Americans viewed its main aim as preventing Soviet expansion in the Middle East. Washington made it clear that the cooperation agreement with Israel was not aimed against the Arabs. President Reagan and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger repeatedly stressed the anti-Russian angle. Begin and Sharon winked to Washington that they understood, but of course thought they could use the agreement

against the Arabs. The Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon reassured the moderate Arab countries, such as Egypt and Jordan, by widening the scope of the joint exercises between their armies and making sure it was publicized. The military exercises with Israel, on the other hand, were usually not publicized at the United States' insistence. Nevertheless, there were several exercises.

While we are concerned about changes in the cooperation framework, I believe we ignore significant changes which might take place in the contents of those relations. Those changes derive from the changed relations between the United States and the USSR, between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Serious cracks were discovered in the Russian empire, setting off a chain reaction that still is continuing. The Russian threat has changed and is now viewed differently in Washington. There is currently an atmosphere promoting the cutting of forces and the making of agreements. There is no longer talk about Russian expansionism. Washington and Moscow are cooperating to end regional conflicts and not to blow them up. Israel's relations with the USSR are also changing.

Moscow is interested in taking part in the peace process in the region. It continues to sell sophisticated arms to the Arab countries, including Syria, but at the same time it is trying to rein in aggressive tendencies in Damascus and is influencing the PLO to become more moderate. It would be a grave mistake to continue building strategic cooperation while ignoring these tremendous changes.

If we do not hasten to adapt ourselves to these changes, the time might come when we ask what is the new basis for the strategic cooperation between us and the United States. We might find that the rug has been pulled out from under our feet. If the strategic cooperation is not aimed against the Russians, is its only aim self-protection against a Russian client, such as Al-Asad's Syria? The strategic cooperation was certainly not aimed against the Palestinian national movement, certainly not to Washington. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's important observation/warning on this was for some reason ignored by us. The defense secretary said in a Pentagon report released recently: "A failure to fulfill the aspirations of the Palestinians in any way might damage the long-range aims of Israel and the United States in the region."

The changes between the two blocs will certainly also influence the defense budgets of the two superpowers. The U.S. defense budget has already in the past year been cut in almost every field, including SDI. It is not conceivable that the rapprochement between the two blocs will continue without it being asked in the near future whether it should not also affect U.S. military aid to various countries. If that is the tendency, it is doubtful whether in 2 to 3 years we will be able to maintain the same level of military aid unless we convince Washington that the threat to Israel has not lessened despite Moscow's different approach to regional conflicts. Israel would do better not to depend on this issue only, but also on Washington's conservative circle, which claims that one must not depend on the changes Gorbachev is introducing because if he is deposed everything will go back to what it was before, and a cold war between the two blocs will start all over again. The conservative circle says countries on NATO's flanks should be strengthened and large warehouses built there in case the expectations in Europe are not fulfilled.

In view of reports from abroad and the inter-bloc changes, another trend for which Israel should be prepared is that, in the future, Washington and Moscow will expand cooperation to prevent the dissemination of technology for the development of ballistic missiles and nuclear arms. It is not inconceivable that this will be one of the issues at the upcoming Bush-Gorbachev summit in the Mediterranean. If this happens, Israel might be asked difficult questions, not only by the congressional committee, but also by the two superpowers. Where important research into the Arrow antimissile missile is concerned, Israeli-U.S. cooperation is doing well, but it is clear that Washington does not want to lose control over this sensitive field.

Israeli representatives to the strategic cooperation talks should not be acting as though nothing has happened and that if the Americans are not raising sensitive issues we should shut up. I believe that some of the above-mentioned subjects—such as how to adjust military aid for Israel so that it will not be harmed if military budgets are cut, or how to make sure Israel's qualitative military edge continues if U.S. arms deals with several Arab countries continue—should be clarified.

Political Impact of Histadrut Vote Analyzed

TA1511094489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Nov 89 p 4

[Commentary by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat: "Potential, But No Mandate for a Narrow-Based Government"]

[Text] Haughtily, Labor Party leaders are now holding their heads up high. After the cumulative losses in two previous elections, for the Knesset and the local councils, they have the right to point to the impressive victory in the Histadrut elections with satisfaction.

Ya'ir Tzaban of MAPAM [United Workers Party] can pat himself on the back. Of its own volition, without the help of big brother, MAPAM gained almost the same electoral share it was assured in the past as part of the Alignment.

Likud leaders are walking around in the doldrums. Their support rose slightly, but the results are far from what they had expected.

Is this picture of the various moods the day after the election relevant, and does it have repercussions for the internal and external political situation?

Not necessarily. We should remember that only slightly more than 50 percent of all Histadrut members took part in these elections. This limits the ability to draw nationwide conclusions from these results. We should also not forget that the agenda for these elections did not include any of the political issues that concern the public.

Beyond the understandable euphoria now prevalent in the Labor Party and MAPAM, we can only point to trends and potential options:

—Personalities. Yisra'el Qeysar, the true victor, was very much strengthened and can expect significant promotion in the party hierarchy. It has been proven that the Histadrut under his leadership is still the firm Labor bulwark it was in the past.

Shim'on Peres also emerged strengthened and has the right to view the victory as the first spark in Labor's recovery. The injection of additional self-confidence might harden his stand toward Shamir and encourage him to be more active in trying to set up a narrow-based government.

Yitzhaq Shamir's standing was weakened not only because of his party's poor showing, but also because he failed in his attempt to liken the elections to a political referendum. The results will not make his talks in Washington, which are not expected to be a rose garden anyway, any easier.

—The government's future: If the prime minister does not return from the United States armed with success, the Labor victory and Peres' strengthened status can hasten the movement, which has already begun, to disband the unity government and set up a narrow-based government led by the Labor Party.

This assumption is based on Peres' confidence—and some say aspiration—that the religious factions, which guided their supporters who have the right to vote in the Histadrut elections to vote for Labor, will no longer hesitate to join a narrow-based government.

Labor also believes that the massive support it gained from the Arab sector in the elections means its support too for a narrow-based government is assured

—Interim conclusion: There is now a potential for serious political repercussions from the Histadrut election, but whoever believes that the results provide a solid mandate for disbanding the government and replacing it with a narrow-based one are mistaken.

Unemployment Falls to 8.8 Percent in 3d Quarter

TA1511092789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Nov 89 p 8

[Report by labor correspondent Jeff Black]

[Excerpts] Unemployment fell slightly in the third quarter of the year, but the jobless rate is still relatively high.

According to figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics, unemployment in the July-September period dropped to 8.8 percent, from 9.4 percent in the second quarter. In the third quarter of 1988, unemployment stood at 6.9 percent.

In a breakdown according to sex, the bureau noted that for this year's third quarter, male unemployment stood at 8.4 percent, compared with 10 percent for women. This represents a 1.3-percentage point decline in female unemployment, compared with the second quarter, and a marginal 0.3-percentage point increase in the male jobless rate. [passage omitted]

The Employment Service reported that last month there was a 19 percent plunge in the number of available jobs registered at the service's branches around the country and that no new employment areas were expected to open in the near future. [passage omitted]

Government Releases 1988 Import, Export Figures

TA1511092989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Nov 89 p 8

[Text] Israel's imports from Eastern Europe grew 32 percent in 1988 to $77 million, according to figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. Exports to the East Bloc grew at about half that rate to $55m.

The bureau, in an early release of data from its yearbook, said the European Community's share of Israeli exports, not counting diamonds, had grown to 40 percent last year, compared with 39 percent in 1987 and 37 percent in 1986. The EC's share of Israeli imports, meanwhile, grew more sharply, to 47 percent in 1988 from 40 percent in 1987 and 1986.

Israel's trade deficit with the EC grew 13 percent last year, the result of a 14 percent rise in its imports from the EC, compared with just a 1 percent rise in its exports to the community.

Exports to the U.S. accounted for 25 percent of Israel's total, or $1.8 billion, as exports to the U.S. rose 5 percent. Imports from the U.S. grew 11 percent.

Figures on Palestinian Fatalities Reported

TA1511095189 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 15 Nov 89 p 8

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 13 November, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 524 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The number includes only those killed by IDF gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's account, the number of Palestinian fatalities is 662.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 802 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

—583 fatalities from IDF and settlers' gunfire;
—82 fatalities from asphyxiation;
—53 fatalities from electrocution and beatings;
—84 fatalities from other causes.

Media Report on Drug Seizures, Arrests

TA1111070389

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 8 November in an ITIM report on page 5 reports that Superintendent Shlomo Tzelnik, the commander of the al-Tayyibah police, said that "al-Tayyibah and al-Tira are today clean of drugs. The drug dealers moved from the villages of the Triangle to Jaljuliya and Kafr Qasim, but we will get them there as well." The report adds that "he made his remarks at the conclusion of a 3-month operation conducted by the Sharon District police in the villages of the Triangle" and that "some 70 suspects and drug addicts were apprehended during this period."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 8 November reports that "the Tel Aviv District court today sentenced two drug smugglers to 15 years in prison. The men are Me'ir Marciano and Avner Hajbi from Rishon Leziyyon. They were convicted of smuggling 5 and ½ kg of heroin from the Netherlands. Eli Nahum, an accomplice to the smuggling, was sentenced to 8 years in prison. Another defendant, Eli Elmo'alem, escaped from his guards several days ago."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 9 November in a report by Andy Goldberg on page 12 points out that "four Israelis have been arrested in Thailand while attempting to smuggle out of the country over 7 kg of pure heroin valued at $1.5 million.

"According to police here, the suspected couriers are part of a large drug network that smuggles drugs from Southeast Asia to the U.S., Canada, and Israel. The arrest was made after information was supplied to the Thai police by officers of Tel Aviv's central unit drug squad. "Senior Israeli officers maintained yesterday that the suspects would be tried in Thailand despite that country's tough policy on drug smugglers."

Islamic Movement Publishes Thanks After Elections

JN1411102389 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Nov 89 p 24

[Advertisement headed "A Word of Love, Loyalty, and Appreciation From the Islamic Movement Bloc's Candidates" and carrying their slogan "Islam is the Solution"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God who guided the nation, granted it success, and made it choose deputies from whom it expects righteousness. At the head of these deputies are the Muslim Brotherhood's candidates, who will always be grateful to the nation for this trust and take pride in it.

While extending many thanks to the masses of our people—men and women—for this precious trust, the Muslim Brotherhood vows to Almighty God to make every possible effort to serve the homeland and the citizens who gave our candidates their precious, good trust. We pray to God Almighty that He will make us live up to the level of this trust, which will fill our brothers, the Muslim Brotherhood's deputies, with more determination and resolution to honorably bear the trust and deliver the message.

It is our duty to extend thanks and appreciation to all official organs that helped make the election process a success with fairness and neutrality. In particular, we thank the Interior Ministry organs, the Public Security officers and personnel, and members of the counting and tallying committees whose efforts, patience, and sincerity in carrying out their duties greatly influenced the conduct of the election process in a fair and neutral manner worthy of appreciation and thanks. We hope this experience will be strengthened and repeated so that it can become the vanguard experience in the region.

We also extend our thanks to the local and Arab media organs which followed our media campaign with fairness and took the trouble to cover our election rallies in both sound and picture.

On this occasion, we declare to the media organs that the Muslim Brotherhood does not feel impatient with any fair or objective criticism of its opinions and practices, provided this is done within the framework of respect for the written word and journalistic ethics and traditions.

Lastly, we declare that we preach the cause of God Almighty and that we behave according to the manner of the great Islam. We have sincerely transcended the unfair and illogical onslaught launched by certain writers a few days before, and also after, the elections. We ask God Almighty that those brothers and sisters, who encroached upon and slandered our movement, will understand that our movement is like a tree that drops fruit when hit by stones. We hope those brothers and sisters will open a new page in dealing with the Islamic Movement, at the head of which is the Muslim Brotherhood group, within a framework of fairness and the search for truth.

Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds. God is great. Thanks be to God.

[Signed] Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, controller-general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan.

Halt to Criticism of Election Results Urged

JN1411113289 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Nov 89 P 22

[Article by Dr Muhammad Masalihah: "Wait a Minute. Do Not Bombard the Results of Your Elections"]

[Text] The election campaign that we have taken part in with absolute freedom, and for which candidates, including all political currents and beliefs, prepared all forms of propaganda and means of persuasion, without censorship or discrimination, has ended. Throughout the election propaganda campaign, all of us—writers, journalists, and readers—came up with daily articles and columns to participate in the preparations for the election campaign. We did this to exercise our electoral rights in accordance with rules designed to achieve the national and pan-Arab objectives we aspire for.

We have congratulated and are congratulating all those who won in the elections, despite our differences with them. This is an established fact in all modern political societies that practice the method of elections as a democratic means that we must respect, especially since we are making an assessment of the results of the general elections. We must not view these results as a failure in the elections out of bitterness or because of narrow ideological viewpoints and ideological differences.

I do not believe it is sound or fair to begin a heavy and immediate bombardment of the election results or to prejudge the winners before giving them a chance. Also, it is not fair to pass judgment on the winners before learning how they will follow through on their campaign promises or on the requirements needed to confront the problems facing our country. I recall that I have criticized the exaggeration in several candidates' programs. However, now that the election propaganda campaign is over, things are different. The issue is how the winners will deal with public affairs and problems—dealings which will be characterized by a realization and awareness of the real state of affairs.

Let us respect the will of the people, their masses, and their choice. Let us respect the parliamentary democracy which we have been longing for. Let us not brandish the weapons of overt and covert criticism of the results that were produced by the people's will, no matter the extent to which these results reflect the people's desire. Let us not waste our time in criticizing or undermining the winners, even if we have different opinions, ideologies, and stands. Let us bless these results along with the

leader of the homeland, His Majesty King Husayn, who expressed his satisfaction with the election proceedings and results immediately after they were announced.

Brothers, let us stop bombarding those we have elected to represent us in the Parliament. Let us support them, guide them, and help them assume the heavy responsibilities ahead of them. Let us put aside our analysis of the results, the reasons behind them, and the level of performance of the House of Representatives you have elected at this early stage. If our assessment of the elections turns out to be wrong after a sufficient probationary period, then we will just not repeat our choice. Is not this the essence of democracy and its objective? So, do not hasten to bombard its newborn child!

Columnist Calls for Political Pluralism

JN1411115889 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Nov 89 p 22

["Last Station" column by Mu'nis al-Razzaz: "Pluralism of Constitutional Forums"]

[Text] In my opinion, the negative attitude against a political trend that won a significant number of seats in the elections is wrong. What is required is not to attack this trend which made a significant showing in the elections; what is required is to demand that the opportunities available to this emerging trend be granted to the other constitutional trends. In other words, it is required that the pan-Arab, national, liberal, and radical trends that believe in the Constitution be given the same freedom available to the trend that proved that it has an organized force on the street and in elections.

We do not call for fighting this trend which gave evidence of its presence in Jordanian political life. But, we call for providing similar political opportunities for the other trends and interpretations that follow the Constitution in word and spirit.

We will run counter to the Constitution, public liberties, and democracy if we demand restrictions on a certain trend under the excuse that it gave evidence of a strong presence during elections. However, if we want to be supporters of the Constitution, public liberties, and democracy, then this requires that we allow the other constitutional political forums to work publicly within the framework of respect to the Constitution and honorable, healthy competition with the other trends.

This raises the issue of political pluralism because allowing a certain trend to become active, interact, and grow at the expense of other ideological constitutional trends does not correspond with the nature of the democratic phase and the age of liberties and pluralism.

Therefore, the solution lies in political pluralism and not in canceling the margin of freedom of action for a specific trend. The solution lies in establishing open political and ideological constitutional forums and granting them the right to become active within the framework of the Constitution. Then, citizens can choose the deputy who will fairly represent them; that is, when equal opportunities are provided for all constitutional forces to express themselves in equal freedom within the framework of the Constitution.

Undoubtedly, our country, which chose to conduct fair and just elections, is capable of allowing those who believe in other ideological and political constitutional trends to become active. We must allow these people to carry out their work as long as their activity is legitimately connected to the Constitution and does not threaten the stability and security of society.

Israel Forces Jordanian Women Out of West Bank

JN1211175289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] As part of their repressive measures in the occupied Arab territories, the Israeli occupation authorities are preventing Jordanian girls of Palestinian origin from staying in the occupied West Bank when they go there to visit or get married. The authorities force them to leave together with their children and refuse to allow them to return to the West Bank. This conflicts with the simplest humanitarian norms and human rights. Those forced to leave the West Bank within the framework of these inhuman measures were 32 women and 56 children.

Interior Ministry Secretary General Salim al-Qudat has chaired an expanded meeting attended by the representatives of the competent authorities. The conferees reviewed the various aspects of this issue and the recommendations and appropriate solutions to deal with the problem.

'Awn Vows To Stand Fast Until Syria 'Explodes'

NC1411124289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The ASSOCIATED PRESS has quoted Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn as saying that if the entire world recognized the al-Huss government, it would still be a government operating under Syrian occupation. He added: Governments cannot survive by outside recognition alone. People change the governments.

The agency cited General 'Awn as saying that it would have been worthwhile for the UN Security Council, which declared its support for the al-Ta'if agreement, to try to preserve the UN Charter, which has been violated repeatedly. He added: The UN Security Council and the Arab League are encouraging the Lebanese people to surrender instead of defending freedom.

Asked about a possible discontinuation of funds to the eastern areas by the central bank, 'Awn said: We will start a closed-economy and withhold the deposit of taxes in the central bank, regardless of the amount of funds we collect. He added: I will stand fast until Syria explodes from within.

'Awn Holds News Conference in East Beirut

NC1411194089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1749 GMT 14 Nov 89

[News conference by General Michel 'Awn in East Beirut with unidentified reporters, on 14 November—recorded]

[Text] ['Awn] As always, I welcome you and thank you for your traditional welcome. Events are moving fast, and every day there is something new. The public wants to be reassured and wants to listen to and understand what is going on. The public has a right to know the truth and where the people stand. We hear that certain people described those who staged a demonstration here as mobs. It is good that we still have video tapes and can see that those who went to the streets and demonstrated are people of whom Lebanon is proud. They are intellectual, cultured, and civilized people. From the bottom to the top, they are the elite.

I am now ready to answer your questions. I hope that the questions will rise to the level of the events and not dwell on minor details.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] The U.S. ambassador withdrew from here although his security was not threatened. He had many reasons and excuses for leaving, and he did go. I hope he will go and spend a month in the area where there is currently a legitimate government, where he believes there is a legitimate government, and present his credentials. He will then be able to tell us about his good experience.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] To me Shaykh Butrus Harb and Dr George Sa'adah have become men of the past. A television debate with them would have been useful when we invited them to debate the situation before the fait accompli occurred. Now both of them are men of the past.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] We are in a situation similar to that of Berlin. The wall has fallen there, but it has not yet fallen here. We will continue to act until the wall between the two parts of Beirut falls. We will not act on the basis that the values of East Berlin take over the western part. We want the values that prevail in the free area to take over the occupied area, and not vice versa. We do not want those in the occupied area to enter the free area. We want to introduce the values of the free area into the occupied area. This is where the whole conflict lies. True, they have succeeded in demolishing the Berlin Wall before we have, because their wall was built before ours. I think the Berlin Wall was built long ago. I hope we too will reach this stage.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, the number of people who are called a mob is increasing. As His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din has said, there is a trend sympathetic to General Michel 'Awn in the western area. Therefore, the people support your stand calling for the departure of all the foreign occupation forces from Lebanon. Do you believe that Michel 'Awn will one day become a prisoner of this popular will and therefore lose his ability to move, act, and change, even positive things? What is your opinion?

['Awn] Mr Saliba, it is not a question of someone becoming a prisoner of popular will. The popular will is an expression of freedom. Popular will has freed me of many things. It has freed me of hesitation, retreat, and fear. The popular will frees; it does not imprison. Here lies its greatness. As long as I have this will, I will continue to express it. Therefore, a description like that is wrong. There is no imprisonment.

Maneuvers cannot take place regarding basic rights. Maneuvers take place regarding interests, not regarding inalienable rights. The French say some rights are inalienable; you are born with these rights. God has given them to you, and no human authority can take them from you. I am defending these rights. I am not defending something that can be divided or something that can be given and taken.

We are not saying that there is a wheat deal between us and Syria and that we will give Syria 60 or 70 percent of the profits and we will take 40 percent or 30 percent. It is the issue of a free presence. Do we have the right to this free presence? Yes or no? This trend will get bigger and stronger until it embraces all of Lebanon. It will not end until Lebanon is liberated.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] Let every wrong solution fail until a correct solution is found. Thirty persons from the western area and 30 persons from the eastern area were put in a container [previous word in English] and flown to al-Ta'if. From al-Ta'if they were taken on a bus ride and then put on a plane to Paris where they stayed in a hotel. Then they were brought to al-Qulay'at to devise a solution to the Lebanese problem.

These people have no representational capacity, influence, or anything else for that matter. They ignored all popular Lebanese tendencies. They ignored all strategic, political trends in the region. All of a sudden they said: This is a solution; come and take it.

This is unacceptable. This is humbug. This is smuggling. This is bankruptcy. These solutions will always fail because they do not spring from reality. You know that.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] As far as I am concerned, the al-Ta'if accord has come to a halt. Everything resulting from it also came to a halt when I dissolved the Chamber of Deputies and filed a complaint with the UN Security Council. All that has happened since then constitutes a fait accompli situation created under the occupation. The aim of all this is to preoccupy us with an internal war. After we succeeded in raising the Lebanese problem in international circles as being a Lebanese-Syrian problem and one of occupation, the international ploy has been to reverse the situation and involve us in a power struggle in Lebanon. I urge you, I urge the political thinkers, the press, and every Lebanese, I urge your conscience to be aware of the matter. Our problem is not with an elected president or whether or not his election is constitutional. Our problem lies with the occupation.

They are again seeking to preoccupy us with an internal problem. This is what is happening. They are preoccupying us with this issue now while they perpetuate their occupations.

You heard what [Syrian Vice President] Khaddam said. Two things happened and I will tell you what they were: They [not further identified] attributed a statement to Rene Mu'awwad which he denied. First, if this statement were made by Mu'awwad, it is a disaster. Second, if it were not made by him and only attributed to him, it is an even bigger disaster. The same thing applies to his wife. So you can imagine what method they are using.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] Nothing will happen. He who has rights will [passage indistinct] and he who has a job will continue his work. But as to how we will carry this out, this is a trade secret and will be announced at the proper time.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] So far this issue has not been raised officially. It is only being raised at the popular level. We hope our jurists will examine it and I promise you I will hold a second Nuremberg in Lebanon, not only for this but also for the entire Lebanese war.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] I did not say that. I did not. I said I will stand fast until Syria (?explodes), I did not say the Syrian explosions and I did not specify. [laughing] I do not speak emotionally. When it happens you will know about it. It might not happen.

[Reporter] It seems that former president Charles Hilu and Abbot Bulus Ni'man are making a certain move but they deny they are mediating. However, there are moves which smack of mediation efforts. Can you brief us on what is taking place? Are they visiting you and others?

['Awn] Everyone dealing with public affairs likes to know what is going on when problems arise. This does not mean he is necessarily trying to mediate. I believe they are men with opinions on various issues and it is worthwhile to consult them. However, there is absolutely no mediation going on. No accommodation could be acceptable between what happened under the occupation after the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies and what is taking place here. Put this right out of your mind. Excuse me for saying that you are either cheating youself or cheating the public. If there is going to be any sort of mediation effort, it will be announced here. I apologize once again for the expression, but if you draw any conclusions by yourself, this means you are cheating the public. Anyone, whether from inside or outside, dealing with such a trivial matter is cheating because bargaining on the homeland's fate is not acceptable. The al-Ta'if accord is either accepted or rejected. There is no room for mediation because there are three bad articles in the accord. Forget about this for now.

Three major articles are connected. There has been much talk about what they called internal reforms, changes, withdrawals, and relations. All this boils down to the appointment of a Chamber of Deputies, the appointment of a government, and agreements of distinguished ties with Syria. The Chamber of Deputies and the government are appointed only to sign the agreements on the special relations with Syria. Then, in the next 2 years there will be no Lebanon left, thanks to these policies, to this appointed Chamber of Deputies, to this appointed government, to these agreements on special ties with Syria.

This is the meaning of the al-Ta'if agreement if you read through it carefully. I am giving you the correct picture. Therefore, the al-Ta'if agreement is unacceptable. Anyone who goes along with that agreement is not getting a new lease on life; he is going to hell. Once Lebanon accepts the al-Ta'if agreement, it will be entering a phase or a tunnel of self-annihilation. I do not want to defend such an outcome, not in a debate and not

in any other form. You have the text of the al-Ta'if agreement; read it. There is no need for legal experts or television debates.

Before the deputies committed their crime, we called to tell them of the dangers of the al-Ta'if document. We did not call on them to come for television debates. We were trying to find a way out for them. We gave them several chances to get out of that tunnel, but they insisted on their position. They kept their blindfolds on and went ahead with their crime.

Now they have a barrier [last word in French] to the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. No one will be able to form a government of national unity. They will have to implement that agreement on one side. We will not take part in a government of national unity which seeks to implement the al-Ta'if agreement, for this would be another crime; this time around no one will take part in the crime. Your turn, Miss Qassis.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] Yes, it is going to be a stable unity, for no one will want to disturb it. Anyone who does that will be playing with fire and will get his fingers burned. Let me tell you another thing. Those who signed the al-Ta'if agreement are not convinced of it.

Let us go back to the first statement made by the Arab tripartite committee. That statement contained a condemnation of Syria. Then certain pressures turned the situation upside down. There has been a change of heart. The deputies met and did not dare to (?include) the remarks of His Majesty King Fahd in the document, even by voting.

Accordingly, no one is convinced of this document's worth and no one will die for it. Therefore, there will be no moves to disrupt stability because of the al-Ta'if document. Even those who signed it are not convinced of its worth. It is a non-Arab document. Frankly speaking, it is not an Arab solution; rather it is an alien solution.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] This document does not guarantee the rights of anyone, whether he is Muslim or Christian. It does not even guarantee an internal balance.

As for the second part of your question, my answer is in the affirmative. I am looking for a full Lebanon that would guarantee the rights of everyone by means of a new political structure compatible with the the objectives of the current situation where coexistence and equality should prevail.

But regarding the first part of your question, that they gave 5,000 or 3,000 [not further identified] to the Christians—first this is not the homeland that I am looking for and second, this is not even guaranteed in the agreement.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, the development of events since 1975 shows that all those who worked to unify the homeland [words indistinct]. Does your excellency intend to (?stay) to unify the country or [words indistinct]?

['Awn] I am staying because there is a popular will that protects me. I have adopted security measures to prevent them from harming me physically. I will not allow any hand to reach me. So far they failed to harm me. There are people who are defending me and helping me defend myself, but do not tell me that because I am working for partition and unification [as heard], the 140-mm shells destroyed this office and even my office in al-Yarzah. They even hatched a plot in Cyprus against me. These are dangers I face every day.

But when a man has a cause and believes in it, he can overcome his fear and not be afraid of anyone. When this man disregards his own interests, he will not be afraid of anyone. There is nothing they can use to scare me. Let them confiscate my capital in the world. I am a soldier and I am ready to die any time. I am not afraid for my life. This is what makes me adopt this solid stand and this is what makes me defend it and not fear the other games that could threaten my life.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] I will wear an amulet. [laughter]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] When their goal becomes the liberation of the homeland then everything will be possible. What counts is the goal and not meeting with this or that official. Incidentally, I am surprised because there are still armed forces, or a contact line in the north. They should have ended the military presence there. There should have been a reconciliation between northern Lebanon and central Lebanon. There is no longer any need for an armed presence there.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] The latest similar thing happened in Sudan. A state existed that the whole world recognized. The people renounced that government and it no longer exists, but the Sudanese people remained. The basis is the people and not the recognized governments. Anything that comes from outside will remain there. The basis is (?the people's will). You are saying that we are now isolated here. Do you think we were more open before? Our situation is still the same.

If the people here are very happy about what is happening there and about the al-Ta'if agreement, they can go for a month there and come back to tell us so we either follow them or invite them to join us. Do not proceed from such theories. If this or that man wants this, and this or that state wants so and so, this does not mean that we should accept what they say. Those who are happy with what is occurring there can go there and tell us. If,

after a month or so they are happy, either we move there or we invite them to come here.

We cannot take what people say as yardsticks. If anyone would say he wants his freedom, I would say you can take it from me but do not ask me to give it. Whatever is imposed on us by force, we will not concede. We will never accept any formula of occupation or any solution under occupation. They might overcome us or crush us, but it is impossible and we must not accept any solution from those. [sentence as heard]

I call on those who might be happy with a solution, particularly the Phalangist Party, to return to the areas from which they were forced out, if they are happy. Let them return to the north, al- Shuf, and east Sidon. It would be good if they could return within a framework of freedom. We are not adopting a theoretical stand that we control part of and that we will sell out the rest. No. We all are evacuees. Anyone among you who is not an evacuee, please raise your hand. All of us are evacuees in Lebanon, and therefore anyone who seeks solutions at the cost of others must be careful.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] Every revolutionary legitimacy seeks to become a constitutional and popular legitimacy. We are short of nothing. We have reached the apex and we will continue our march. There is another thing that has reached its limit. From now on we will not accept a coupist media in this area. We discussed the issue of freedom in our previous meeting. There is a limit from now on. I do not mean a limit for freedom. There is something that is taking place in the media called [word indistinct]. This should be stopped. Everyone should know his limit. The limit of freedom is one thing and the limit of coups is something else. From now on everyone should be aware of this fact.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, they raised a slogan in al-Ta'if to the effect that failure is not allowed, and you are raising a slogan to the effect that no one is allowed to push through the al- Ta'if deal. The question is: How do you envisage the confrontation and do you think that you can disrupt all the plans drawn up for Lebanon on the international level?

['Awn] Certainly. Yes I can. But not alone. All the Lebanese people should be on my side. You may recall that when I asked the people to express their views I told them that al-Ta'if is on one side and I am on the other side. I told them: If you want al-Ta'if you can leave me but I will not go with you. But if you want me to stay, even against al-Ta'if, you should be on my side and certainly I will steer you to victory.

There is no way that you can destroy the will of the people. The will of the people can be destroyed only by means of woodworms [as heard] and by injecting doubts in the hearts of people. Our strength lies in our united stand. The Lebanese people cannot lose because of outsiders and their war did not take place [words indistinct]. The responsibility of the 15-year-old war is ours. We have created this war.

This is true because they used to say that the fighting will erupt on the 15th of the month. On the 14th of the month, the young people carried guns and started firing. They were not prophets. They had their orders from outside. When we stop to implement the wishes of others abroad and we work according to our interests, no one can exploit us to execute his plots against us. Hence, the Lebanese people are urged to be alert and not to play the game of others. You have the experience of 15 years of war.

They used to tell us that there would be a certain solution in 6 months, and at other times that there would be another solution in 5 months. These were only excuses given to the occupiers and usurpers to exploit the Lebanese people and increase their control over Lebanon. Now they tell us that [the Syrians will withdraw] after 2 years. What do they mean in 2 years? If the Chamber of Deputies and the government are appointed by Syria and if Syria works out its own agreements in Lebanon, who would demand the withdrawal after 2 years? This means that Syria will stay indefinitely.

They talk about Lebanese forces against the Syrian Army. They do not talk about a Lebanese army against the Syrian Army. [Words indistinct] I have explained to the deputies not to proceed with it.

[Reporter] Is it true that you are prepared to start a dialogue?

['Awn] With whom and about what?

[Reporter] Concerning the Syrian withdrawal [words indistinct].

['Awn] I will not start a dialogue with a substitute. I will talk only with the principal side. I will talk only with the Syrians over the issue of withdrawal because the Syrians have no Lebanese representatives here.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] Directly with Syria, but first Syrian withdrawal. After Syria has withdrawn its forces to outside the Lebanese borders, we will then discuss excellent, distinguished, or fraternal ties and good neighborliness. These ties can be discussed after a Syrian withdrawal, but not under occupation. This is a principled stand. It is not that we are alone in the country. Under occupation there can only be capitulation. History tells us that any agreement signed under occupation is bad. We must not negotiate under foreign occupation.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] Of course, they want one to sign. Do you think they want one who refuses to sign? Can you imagine Hitler asking De Gaulle to negotiate with him? Hitler would have asked Petain to negotiate with him, but not De Gaulle.

[Reporter] In this case, is there a way out?

['Awn] The only way out is resistance in order to change the situation [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, what about the suppression of information?

['Awn] There is no suppression of information. There is freedom of information but suppression of violations of information. We want to apply the law. We want to find out from where every newspaper and information source is getting its funds. We want to ensure what the law permits and forbids. We will not accept any indiscipline or laxity. We have freedom. Giving orders at gunpoint is not permitted. We are committed to the law as an authority, so how can a newspaper or radio proprietor exercise terrorism against us? No, that is too much. We enjoy the support of the people and the law. We have the Armed Forces, so how can we allow anyone to exercise terrorism against us? This is too much. Freedom is absolute here, but we must not allow any thug to call us names. We cannot tolerate this.

[Reporter] The radio stations that are listening to your statement may say that General 'Awn will ban freedom in the eastern area. Will the Voice of the People, the Voice of the Mountain, and the Voice of the Homeland now say that Gen 'Awn forbids freedom?

['Awn] All right, we are using these as examples of freedom. [laughter] They will maintain freedom until we have a desire to live as they do.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] [Passage indistinct] I have several ideas about the elections. [Passage indistinct] indeed, I may submit a request to the United Nations [words indistinct, laughter].

[Reporter] Do you believe that there are Lebanese parties that indeed reject the al-Ta'if bargain, and, if so, is there any coordination between you to prevent peddling (?the agreement)?

['Awn] Why not ask me if there are Lebanese parties who accept it, rather than asking if anyone rejects it? You should ask who accepts it. Tell me who accepted. Only a few professional politicians accepted. Tell me, do Tripoli, Sidon, the Southern Suburb, the Mountain area, and al-Biqa' accept? None of them accepted it. We are like them. We had 30 people here who signed it, and they had 30 others who did. In all, they total 55 [as heard] people. I wish that even they had all said they accepted. They may have said yes despite themselves or to justify their acceptance of the bargain out of fear or inability. They say that this was what they were able to achieve and that they would be afraid if they failed to achieve anything. Did anyone give any other reason? Their excuses are worse than their guilt, as if those who are scared or incapable should be leaders in difficult times.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] You mentioned this in your question and in your answer you said: The law will be the judge of us and them. However, my reply was that the law will decide. We said there is a public prosecution office and there are people responsible for applying the rules. The independent judicial authority deals with the matter. We will call them tomorrow and tell them that if there are violations by the deputies to please take action.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn, laughing] They have run away.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] It was necessary before they left for al-Ta'if. Pardon me for saying that their way of thinking is different than mine. We come from different schools of thought. Although I was quite clear, they could not understand the fact that they cannot create a de facto situation and then come to negotiate with me. They and their bosses who led them (?this way) thought that if they created a de facto situation, they would then come and negotiate with me. I canceled this de facto situation before it was even created. They will have to negotiate with me on this basis.

If they rescind their constitutional violations, I will cancel the decree dissolving the Chamber of Deputies; that is, if there is no al-Ta'if accord, there will be a Chamber of Deputies. Let them negotiate with me over everything they have done as a fait accompli. No one should discuss the matter with me in this framework.

[Reporter] Prime Minister, how....

['Awn, interrupting] That is enough, I am not discussing the subject with you. This is not something to be discussed in a news conference. Once they abolish everything they did as a fait accompli without negotiating with me, because I am necessary to national reconciliation and they admit this... [changes thought] National reconciliation starts in al-Ta'if, not after the presidential elections.

[Reporter] Prime Minister, there was an uproar by some people about his beatitude the patriarch's speech becasue the speech said in part that the Christians have been persecuted and that those who persecuted them belonged to non-Christian schools, such as [words indistinct]. Do you view this as some kind of exploitation to cast doubt on your Maronism or Christianity?

['Awn] I have not sensed [word indistinct], therefore I have no comment. I am not involved in the issue. He is free to imagine any thing he likes. He knows about the matter better than I do. I am not involved in this.

[Reporter] People have begun to depict the patriarch's speeches as being against your policies. The last example of the speeches was about being tense and that it is not the time for tension and so on. In other words, people are

given the impression that it is you who is tense especially after the patriach left. Have you appealed to his beatitude to return to his original place?

['Awn] He is welcome. His beatitude the patriarch still is the patriarch of the Maronite sect. The objection was against his political stand, not against his religious attitudes. No one is arguing about his faith and spiritual authority. He who indulges in politics must bear the burden of politics, whether positively or negatively. One may at one time play a hero in a political stand and reactions to his political stand may be negative, disregarding whether his position is right or wrong. Many leaders have been dragged down and then honored.

There were many leaders who were honored and later dragged in the streets. History will deliver its verdict eventually. Now we are faced with a capitulationist act. Anyone who does not understand this must read the al-Ta'if agreement. We are faced with a three-point agreement. We are faced with the appointment of a Chamber of Deputies and a cabinet, and special agreements that would abolish Lebanon. We are opposed to the [words indistinct]. Anyone who shows leniency about these points deserves to have his throat cut. This is not a frenzied stand. What is at issue is the surrender of a homeland or its rescue. This is an unequivocal and final stand. The al-Ta'if agreement will never be (?accepted) or signed. Those who played [words indistinct] they themselves supported the Cairo agreement [signed in 1969 to regulate Palestinian-Lebanese relations] and then they asked us to carry arms against the Cairo agreement. They brought in the Syrian forces and then asked us to carry arms against them. They (?agreed to) the 17 May agreement and then asked us to fight it. Now they want us to agree to the al-Ta'if agreement and then carry arms against it. How many times do we have to be tried? Let them not speak of frenzied attitudes. The final stand is that there will never be any downward agreements. We will not agree to take a bad thing for fear that a worse thing may come, because what they are giving us is the worst. We are in a bad situation and they are giving us the worst. Let us stay with the bad situation. If we cannot move from bad to better and then to best, we cannot go from bad to worse. My final word is that the al-Ta'if agreement is rejected. Beware of talk that Gen 'Awn will accept a mediation effort to agree to the al-Ta'if agreement. I will not accept any intercession or mediation regarding the al-Ta'if agreement, because it means the abolition of Lebanon.

[Reporter] Prime Minister, how do you view the foreseeable future, the internal situation in Lebanon as a whole, not only in the eastern area, politically, militarily, and economically? [passage indistinct]

['Awn] The dollar is going down and things are easing. Previously we were deprived with the rise of the dollar. Now we are being deprived with the decline of the dollar. I hope we will not be deprived.

[Reporter] Politically?

['Awn] Politically, the situation is all right. As long as we secure our unity, we are in good shape. But if we are not united, we will lose. This is clear.

[Reporter] Militarily?

['Awn] Militarily, we are at rest here. As I told you, the more united we are, the harder the nucleus. Foreign forces will founder on our core. Rest assured and don't let bad news [words indistinct, laughter].

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct] they know what the Lebanese resistance is, who its enemy is, what the cause is, why it is fighting, and what it expects. All these questions are outlined in [words indistinct]. We have agreed on the substance.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] On the contrary, we may differ on tactics, but not in strategy.

Mu'awwad Receives Message From Saudi King

NC1511074289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] President Rene Mu'awwad received a message from Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz 2 days ago on behalf of the Arab tripartite committee. The message stressed the basic Arab stands for a solution in Lebanon and pledged to honor the committee's obligations toward Lebanon, the president, and the new government.

According to some sources, the message suggested that the formation of the new government be expedited, taking advantage of Arab and international support, in order for the national unity government to complete building the state's structure.

Lebanese Forces' Nasr on Ja'ja'-Mu'awwad Talks

NC1411204889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Dr Qaysar Nasr, head of the Lebanese Forces Foreign Relations Committee, has stated that he is trying to reconcilie President Rene Mu'awwad and Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, because reconciliation between them will ease many things. He said that unity is of utmost priority, because the Christians are facing many dangers. He noted that the goal of Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' is to bring about reconciliation and to find a way out of this crisis.

Nasr denied that he is aware of any direct talks between Dr Ja'ja' and President Mu'awwad. He said, however, that there are intensive indirect contacts between them. He stated that Dr Ja'ja' is acting as a link between Gen 'Awn and Patriarch Sfayr.

On the possibility that Dr Ja'ja' might join Prime Minister al-Huss' government, Nasr said: I do not believe this is possible, and I do not know whether or not he was asked to join. He stressed that the Lebanese Forces

support Gen 'Awn in his campaign to oust foreign forces. Any other political differences between them, he said, are secondary.

Lebanese Forces Call for New Army Commander

NC1411184489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] According to well-informed sources, the Lebanese Forces have proposed the formation of a six-member government including George Sa'adah [Phalangist Party leader]. Immediately after the announcement of such a government, the Lebanese Forces suggested that an Army commander be appointed. The Lebanese Forces said they are willing to make a security zone, including Sarba, 'Amshit, and Jubayl, available for the summoning of military officers to join the appointed Army commander.

The new Army commander and his aides will then resolve the issue of Michel 'Awn. According to the Lebanese Forces' proposal and the mechanism of its implementation, the solution of the issue of 'Awn can only be military. However, the Lebanese Forces insisted that they would not interfere in that process, and this has made deputies and political circles ponder and question the credibility of the Lebanese Forces.

Sniper Fire Reported Along Mountain Road

NC1411131489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Since this morning, the Baysur-Majdalayya road [in the Mountain] has come under sniper fire from the positions of the al-Yarzah [Michel 'Awn's army] gangs in Suq al-Gharb. According to security reports, two civilian cars were hit on the road.

Clashes Between Amal, Hizballah Reported

NC1411174289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen took place in al-Musharrafiyah in the Southern Suburb at 1745. Machineguns and rockets were used in the fighting, which extended later to other areas in the Southern Suburb. The situation is still reported to be tense in the suburb, where both militias are on alert and machinegun fire can be heard from time to time.

Meanwhile, an exchange of fire took place near the Piccadilly movie theater in al-Hamra' [in West Beirut]. Two persons were injured in the clash; they were taken to the American University Hospital. [passage omitted]

Shortly before 1800, several shells fell on the Sodeco-Primo-Ra's al-Nab' combat line in the capital and bursts of machinegun fire were also heard there.

'Fierce Clashes' Continue

NC1411205489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Fierce clashes involving rockets and machineguns have been in progress since this afternoon between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in the Southern Suburb. The clashes spread from al-Musharrafiyah and Bi'r al-'Abd to al-Ghubayrah, Harat Hurayk, the airport roundabout, and Hay Madi in al-Shiyah.

In another development, a fighting in which rockets and antiaircraft weapons were used took place on the Bsaba-al-Ma'rufiyah line between 2000 and 2115 today.

[Paris AFP in English in a similar report at 2044 GMT on 14 November adds: "A spokesman for Amal downplayed the importance of the confrontation and said it was 'simply an isolated incident.'"]

'Tension' Reported After Fighting

NC1511070889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] A second bout of fighting between Amal and Hizballah fighters broke out yesterday in the streets of Beirut's Southern Suburb. The streets were the scene of tension and two rounds of clashes between the two sides for approximately 6 hours. The first round took place from 1745 until 1900 and the second from 2200 until midnight. The respite between the two rounds was marked by extreme tension and the appearance of gunmen from the two sides in almost all the streets of the Southern Suburb. Machineguns, rockets, and mortars were used in the fighting. Ahmad al-Tufayli was killed and Muhammad Yunis was wounded. Both were taken to al-Sahil hospital. The BBC this morning said at least 3 gunmen were killed in the clashes.

A meeting was held last night between representatives of the two sides in order to reach a cease-fire and withdraw the gunmen from the streets. Syrian officials also attended the meeting. We were informed this morning that tension still reigns in some parts of Beirut's Southern Suburb, particularly in the areas of al-Musahrrafiyah, Hay Madi, al-Ghubayrah, Harat Hurayk, and al-Shiyah.

In another development, the exchange of fire that took place in the Picadilly neighborhood yesterday evening left 2 people wounded. The two, who were inside the 'Aqil clothes shop, were taken to the American University hospital.

Al-Musawi, Birri React

NC1511082289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Contact was made last night between His Eminence 'Abbas al-Musawi and Amal Movement leader

Nabih Birri. They agreed to eliminate the reasons for yesterday's incident in the al-Musharrafiyah area of the Southern Suburb.

Israeli, Lahd Militia Activities Noted in South

NC1511072089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Security sources have reported Israeli military movements in the al-Bayyadah area, near Tyre.

The agent militia has threatened the people in the occupied areas against holding demonstrations and celebrations without permits. The enemy forces shelled the vicinities of Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and Haris, causing damage to crops and property.

An Israeli force raked the area of the occupied Shab'a village. A Lahd militia force entered Shab'a and searched a number of houses. Another Israeli force moved out of their positions on Shab'a hills and penetrated into the liberated area, in the (Jum'um) valley, and carried out a combing operations some 3 km inside the area.

Meanwhile, a militia position in Zummarayya yesterday morning fired in the direction of Mimis, in the liberated area. The 'Ayn Qinya position also fired at the Wadi Mimis forest.

The Lebanese Resistance brigades-Amal announced that one of its groups has attacked an agent militia position on Haddathah hill, inflicting casualties and the loss of equipment.

According to reports from Jazzin, Captain Antoine Nassar has announced his retirement from the agent Lahd command because of differences between him and Lahd on the policy which Nassar is pursuing in Jazzin.

Resistance Detonates Charge in South 15 Nov

NC1511112089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Bra'shit and Wadi al-Saluqi came under artillery fire this morning from agent Lahd militia positions on the overlooking hills. It has been learned that the shelling caused material damage.

A national resistance group this morning detonated an explosive charge near a joint patrol of the Zionist occupation forces and the agent militia on the military road near (Raji) hill, in the central sector of the occupied border strip. The explosion left a number of patrol members wounded and damaged an M-113 armored personnel carrier and a jeep. The enemy radio reported the operation, claiming that there were no casualties.

Afghanistan

'Extremists,' Pakistan Plan To Attack Jalalabad

LD1311190989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] New hostile plans by the armed extremists and the Pakistani militarists to implement their sinister plans and renew attacks on Jalalabad were unveiled at a news conference this morning. According to a report by the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military correspondent, at this news conference, which was held at Storay Palace of the Foreign Ministry and attended by domestic and foreign journalists as well as by a delegation of the Journalists Union of Pakistan, Major General Muhammad Anwar, head of operations of the Defense Ministry, gave comprehensive information to the journalists about the renewal and replanning of an offensive on Jalalabad city and the organization of this attack by Peter Tomsen, deputy head of the U.S. department of espionage, the CIA. He said: According to information, the armed extremists and the Pakistani militarists, in complete contravention of the provisions of the Geneva accords, in order to realize their sinister aims against the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of our country, have made preparations to launch new attacks on Jalalabad.

In order to coordinate the commencement of the new attacks on Jalalabad city, three delegations belonging to various extremist groups, in the composition of which Pakistani, U.S., and Saudi Wahhabi advisers were included, visited several regions in Nangarhar province in the course of the past month, and during their meetings with group commanders they encouraged them toward joint cooperation in an attack on Jalalabad.

The enemy supplies for carrying out the new attack, in particularly after 3 November, were intensified through Torkham and Naway Kandaw, sarkani district. According to information in our hands, some 10,000 enemy troops, who are equipped with a large number of surface-to-surface missiles, more than 10 units for launching of Sakar-30 and Sakar-20 rockets, 40 launching units for rockets missile systems, 48 mortars, nearly 200 rocket launchers, 16 tanks, and combat machines [as heard], 13 armored vehicles, and a quantity of assorted heavy weapons, are being prepared for the attack.

He added that armed extremists, the Pakistani militarists, and the Saudi Wahhabis, during their past armed attacks on Nangarhar, faced servere defeats as a result of the resistance, courage, and heroism of the units and companies of the armed forces stationed in Nangarhar, and heavy loss of life was inflicted on them. A large quantitity of their weapons and ammunition were destroyed. Between 7 March 1988 and 9 November 1989, 29,032 invaders were killed on the Nangarhar front, 19,123 were wounded, and 131 were captured alive. Among the captured are 3 Arab citizens and 2 Pakistanis.

The head of operations of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan stated that untis and companies of the armed forces of the country who, as always, enjoy the support and cooperation of the people, this time too are completely ready to rebuff and repulse a new attack by the invaders and, as always, will inflict fatal blows on them.

The BIA military correspondent adds that at the end, guests and journalists put forward their questions to which answers were given by the head of operations of the Defense Ministry.

General Anwar Confirms Plan

LD1511001389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Statement, followed by news conference, by Major General Muhammad Anwar, head of Ministry of Defense Operations Department, in Kabul on 13 November]

[Text] [Announcer] Dear Radio Afghanistan listeners. At a news conference held yesteray, hostile new plans of the armed extremists and Pakistani militarists to launch an attack on Jalalabad city were exposed. May we draw your attention to the proceedings of this news conference.

[Second announcer in Dari] Esteemed listeners. As you know, after the withdrawal of the limited military units of the Soviet Union from our country, the U.S. and Pakistani diplomats, as well as the diplomats of a number of countries supporting the extremists, remained firm in their belief and repeatedly said that after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops, the existing regime of the Republic of Afghanistan would fall. They have since unleashed a wide propaganda campaign to accomplish this aim. Over 9 months have elapsed, but the government of the Republic of Afghanistan has been independently defending itself and is still in power. With strength and high morale, it has been fighting with courage io all fronts of the battle.

As you are aware, the deputy head of the CIA and Peter Tomsen have carried out consultations in Peshawar, and have gathered the chieftains of extremist groups around themselves. They have planned another attack against Jalalabad. In order to inform you fully of the details of this conspiracy we have invited Major General Muhammad Anwar, head of the Operations Department of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan to give you accurate information about the recent plan of the United States, Pakistan, and extremists to attack the city of Jalalabad. He will answer your questions at the end of this statement.

[Anwar in Dari] Esteemed journalists. The competent organs of the Republic of Afghanistan have received information that the chieftains of the extremists, under U.S., Pakistani, and Saudi pressure, are going to carry out a new attack on Jalalabad with the purpose of transferring the provisional government to Jalalabad. At

this moment, 200 armed extremist groups, consisting of 10,000 men, equipped with heavy weapons, including a large number of missiles, artillery, such as 24 BM-14's, 20 SAKR-30 and SAKR-20 launchers, 25 tanks and other heavy and light weapons, have taken up positions in the area around Jalalabad. About 1,000 Pakistani and Arab mercenaries, as well as a number of mercenaries from West Europe, are also taking part. A large number of these mercenaries are engaged in maintaining and safeguarding the weapons and combat vehicles. They are acquainted with the use of weapons and combat tactics, and they teach the armed extremists in the use of these weapons. They will also take part in the mobilization work and invasion of Jalalabad. They are making preparations for this. It must be pointed out that a Pakistani colonel, nicknamed (?Amam), who recently arrived in Nangarhar, will be in charge of mobilization and administration.

This Pakistani colonel travelled to Nangarhar many times and took part in combat operations by the armed extremists. This colonel originally comes from Salma city in Punjab Province and is an officer of the ISI, the Pakistani intelligence service, and his real name is Soltan Mir. Another major of the intelligence service of Pakistan, Qadim, will cooperate with Colonel Soltan Mir in executing his tasks. Major Qasim's main duty is to send weapons and ammunition to the armed extremists. It must be added that Major Bashir, a Pakistani officer from the region of Kohat, will also assist Colonel Soltan Mir.

Colonel Amam will also be assisted by a number of foreign advisers in implementing his duties. They will receive supplies daily. Since 20 October, every night up to 50 vehicles loaded with weapons and ammunition have been reaching the extremists' positions in the areas around Jalalabad. Reportedly, these vehicles will move toward Jalalabad after the UN posts located in the vicinity of Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway leave their positions.

A session was held on 4 November 1989 with the participation of most active ringleaders of Golbuddin's Hezb-e Eslami, Khalis's Hezb-e Eslami, the Jamiyat-e Eslami and a group from the Mahaz-e Melli, under the supervision and guidance of the intelligence service of Pakistan which continued for 2 days. At this session they decided how many weapons and what kinds should be given to which band or group; and those attending the session reached an agreement. The report reaching us says that 3,000 Wahhabi mercenaries from Saudi Arabia and dozens of foreign advisers, mostly from the U.S., and an artillery brigade from the regular forces of Pakistan will take part with the forces in the invasion of Jalalabad. Various kinds of enemy activity has been seen recently along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway with the aim of accomplishing the above objectives; and groups from the Mawlawi Khalis and Mojadeddi groups are continuously reaching Tangi-e Abreshim, located 12 kilometers south-east of Sarowbi and taking up their appropriate positions. It must be pointed out that quantities of weapons and ammunition have reached Jalalabad via Konarha Province too.

According to another report a session was held in Peshawar on 1 November with the participation of Mojadeddi, Sayyaf, Khalis and the commander of Pakistan's Army Corps XI where it was decided that a large number of missiles should be sent to Jalalabad, Khowst Major District, and Qandahar for launching at these cities and regions. Following these preparations about 50 Pakistani militiamen wearing Afghan uniforms arrived in Towr Kham from Pakistan on 8 November 1989.

After a profound and comprehensive assessment of the situation ,the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces Supreme Command has issued the following statement:

Communique of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces Supreme Command

According to information received, armed extremists and Pakistani militarists, contravening the provisions of the Geneva accords and in an attempt to realize their sinister aims against the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of our country, have made preparations to launch new attacks on Jalalabad. The Armed Forces Supreme Command draws the attention of our compatriots to the fact that in order to coordinate the start of new attacks on Jalalabad, three delegations belonging to various extremist groups, composed of Pakistani, U.S., and Saudi Wahhabi advisers, came to several regions in Nangarhar Province in the course of the past month. During their meetings with group commanders, the delegations encouraged them to cooperate in attacking Jalalabad. Enemy supplies for carrying out the new attack, particularly since 3 November, have been arriving through Towr Kham and Nawa Kandaw of Sarkani District, Konarha Province.

It is predicted that the enemy plans to attack Jalalabad from all sides, the main thrust coming from the east and southeast of the city. Continuing these preparations, the Pakistani-linked armed extremists attempted attacks on security posts on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, particularly in the Tangi-e Abreshim region in order to close the highway. Approximately 10,000 enemy troops equipped with many surface-to-surface missiles, more than 10 SAKR-30 and SAKR-20 missile-launching units, 40 missile-launching units, 48 mortars, nearly 200 rocket launchers, 16 tanks and combat machines, 13 armored vehicles, and a quantity of assorted heavy weapons, will participate in the offensive.

It is worth mentioning that Peter Tomsen and the deputy head of the U.S. espionage organization, who are advisers for the attack, have come to Peshawar and are holding meetings with the heads of the parties.

Our compatriots are aware that the Armed Forces Supreme Command, in communiques dated 12 and 16 March 1989, and in its communique for the month of Saratan [June-July] informed our compatriots about the organization of the enemy's armed activities, particularly with regard to Jalalabad.

The armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis during their past armed attacks on Nanqarhar were faced with severe defeats as a result of the resistance, courage and heroism of the units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar, and heavy loss of life was inflicted on them. A large quantity of their weapons and ammunition were destroyed. From 7 March 1988 to 9 November 1989, 29,033 invaders were killed on the Nangarhar front, 19,123 wounded, and 131 were captured, among whom were 3 Arabs and 2 Pakistanis.

The heads of the armed extremists should learn from their defeats, and not, under pressure from foreigners, resort to actions that increase the killing of Muslims and Afghans in our war-weary country. Our people know that those responsible for all these murders and deaths of Afghans, who are all Muslim brothers, are the heads of the armed extremists stationed in Pakistan, and the Pakistani militarists. Our people, in a voice of peace and fraternity, ask the opponents to cease this fratricidal war and not to become a tool in the hands of aliens who want to drag our proud fatherland through the dirt. Once again we emphasize that should there be an attack on Jalalabad, again heavy and irreparable losses will be inflicted on the aggressors. It must also be mentioned that the enemy, besides preparing for an attack on Jalalabad, continues its combat activities in Khowst.

The Armed Forces Supreme Command, by issuing this communique, assures the compatriots that the Armed Forces of the country continue to enjoy the cooperation and support of the people and are fully prepared to repulse a renewed attack by the aggressors, and as always will inflict fatal blows on them. The armed extremists and Pakistani militarists should know that the grave consequences of a renewed attack on Jalalabad will rest with them.

[Moderator] If there are questions on this, please ask. A reporter from the DAWN newspaper asks what measures for repelling this invasion have been taken by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

[Anwar] Esteemed journalists. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan were always able to repel the enemy attacks and have gained much experience over the past 9 months. They have fortified their positions and have taken measures from the standpoint of mobilization and administration, coordination of operations, and preparation from every aspect to repel an enemy invasion. Just as they were able to neutralize and foil the enemy's plans in the past, so will they repel enemy attacks and foil their plans in the future.

[Moderator] The reporter of [words indistinct] asks for the precise date of the attack on Jalalabad. When should this attack take place?

[Anwar] We know the date for the enemy's attack, but we do not wish to reveal it.

[Moderator] JANG, a Pakistani newspaper, asks if extremists and their supporters suffered heavy losses of life and material in the attack they launched on Jalalabad. Do you think that if their attack plan is revealed and the weather is cold, the attack will still be mounted?

[Anwar] The attack will be launched under pressure from the governments of the United States, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. It is mounted on their behest. They are instructed to occupy a city and transfer their interim government there. In order not to lose aid from these countries, they will launch their attacks.

[Moderator] The same reporter from JANG asks if this attack is desired more by others than themselves. How many Pakistani military personnel have been arrested for subversive activities in the territory of Afghanistan? Is it possible to see them in a news conference or otherwise?

[Anwar] We have brought Pakistani Army members and members of Pakistan's intelligence service before journalists, and they have made their confessions. Presently they are in prison, and we can arrange a meeting for Pakistani journalists to visit them.

[Moderator] He asks another question. Are Pakistan's Jamiyat-e Eslami members involved in subversive activities? One of them was killed recently and transfered to Pakistan. Is the Pakistani Army actually involved in these operations? If so, is there any evidence to support this fact?

[Anwar] The Pakistani Army carries out logistic and supportive fire duties in the operations mounted by the opposition groups. It is involved in transportation; its artillery forces are also deployed. Many dead bodies of Pakistani paramilitary forces have been discovered among the bodies of the opposition in Qandahar and Jalalabad. Radio interception has confirmed the commands issued by Pakistani officers. It is understood that Pakistani officers were involved in planning, mobilization, and administration duties.

[Moderator] Thank you for your participation in this news conference. We end this news conference here, and wish you success and a good journey in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Launch 'All-Out Offensive' on Jalalabad

BK1511081689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0812 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 15 (AFP)—Afghan resistance guerrillas launched an all-out offensive on Jalalabad overnight and seized two important posts on the way to the eastern city after heavy fighting, rebel sources said Wednesday [15 November].

The three-pronged resistance attack launched late Tuesday involves some 3,000 guerrillas from different mujahidin groups, the sources said.

Soviet-backed Afghan President Najibullah predicted last week that the mujahidin would launch another

assault on Jalalabad and said they had stockpiled fresh arms and ammunition for the attack.

Jalalabad has been under seige by the resistance since Afghan Government forces repulsed an attempt to seize the strategic city in March, just weeks after the Soviet Union completed its military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) quoted a field commander 'Abdul Jabbar as saying that "severe fighting is continuing east, west and south of Jalalabad," the third-largest city in Afghanistan.

The mujahidin commander, who returned to the Pakistani border city of Peshawar for "immediate consultations," added that Afghan Air Forces planes "were bombing the area heavily."

Mujahidin Seize 'Important' Base West of Kabul

BK1511012089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1741 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Textt] Islamabad, Nov 14 (AFP)—Moslem guerrillas took control of a strategically important base 30 kilometers west of Kabul in early November and have repelled an attack by forces of the Soviet-backed Afghan Government, Western diplomats here said Tuesday [14 November].

The U.S.-supported mujahidin, who are fighting to topple the Kabul regime, captured the government stronghold of Pajak [placename as received] early this month, they said.

In the past week, the Afghan Army's 8th Division and First Corps launched a counterattack supported by heavy aerial bombardment and tribal militia, they said.

The rebels repulsed the drive, inflicting "heavy losses," the diplomats said without giving the extent of guerrilla casualties.

Control of Pajak showed that the rebels were "steadily chipping away at Kabul's security perimeter," the diplomats said.

There were "no significant regime positions on the west side of Kabul beyond the base at Qarghah Lake, on the western edge of Kabul itself," they added.

Pajak had served as an important forward observer post for the government's 99th Rocket Brigade, which fires surface-to-surface Frog-7 missiles, as well as for the 8th Division's artillery, the sources said.

They added that regime positions in the area were the only barriers to direct communication between resistance forces in the Paghman area, 20 kilometers west of the city, and those around Shakardara, 10 kilometers north.

The diplomats said they expected the government to launch further attacks to try to recapture Pajak in the coming weeks because of the area's importance.

The diplomats also said that commodity prices recently increased in Kabul due to the continuing disruption of supply traffic on the 400-kilometer Salang highway, which links the Afghan capital to the Soviet Union in the north.

Reports from northern Afghanistan have said that the rebels launched several small attacks on the Salang highway in the past week, especially in the area between the Salang tunnel, about 100 kilometers north of Kabul, and the Khenjan area, 30 kilometers further north, the sources said. The fighting had "delayed the clearing of the backlog" which built up when the highway was closed for two weeks in late October and early November, they said.

On Tuesday, the resistance-run news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] said that 12 civilians were killed Saturday in a mine explosion which destroyed their vehicle in the eastern province of Nangarhar. In blast took place on the road between Towr Kham, a town on the border with Pakistan, and the Khugianay District, some 90 kilometers west. The mine was planted some two years ago by government forces, MIDIA said. The area is now under mujahidin control.

Bangladesh

Foreign Secretary Previews PRC Premier's Visit

BK1411132889 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] President Ershad and Chinese Premier Li Peng will have talks on further expansion of bilateral economic cooperation during the Chinese leader's coming visit to Bangladesh. The two leaders will also discuss regional, international and political issues of common concern. Mr Li Peng arrives in Dhaka on Friday [17 November] on a 3-day official visit to Bangladesh.

Briefing newsmen in the capital Tuesday [14 November] morning, Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan described Dhaka's relations with Beijing as excellent. He said the relations between the two countries are rooted in history and go back to centuries. The foreign secretary said the economic cooperation between the two countries is significant. Chinese technology in (?several) fields is considered appropriate in the context of developing countries like Bangladesh.

Ershad Appoints 2 Ministers, Changes Portfolios

BK1411133289 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The Bangladeshi president has appointed one more minister and another state minister. They are Syeda Razia Faiz and Alhaj Mohammad Mansur Ali Sarkar. The president administered the oath of office to the newly appointed ministers at the president's secretariat in Dhaka Tuesday [14 November].

Syeda Razia Faiz has been given the portfolio of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Mansur Ali Sarkar the State Ministry for Education. Mr Rizwanul Haq Chowdhury will be the minister for social welfare. Mr Nitai Roy Chowdhury, who was the state minister for education, has been made the state minister for law and justice.

India

Gandhi Accuses Pakistan of Supporting Terrorists

BK1411145689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, today accused Pakistan for its continuing support to terrorists in Punjab. Addressing a public meeting at Rohtak in Haryana, Mr Gandhi said the whole world knows that terrorists are being provided shelter and training by Pakistan. He said India has information that Pakistani rangers are providing security cover to the terrorists right up to the India-Pakistan border. The terrorists have their roots in Pakistan.

Curfew Imposed in Karnataka; Schools Closed

BK1511035689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] In Karnataka, the curfew clamped on Hubli city last night will remain in force during the day today. However, a 3-hour relaxation was given from 0600 [0030 GMT] this morning. Police sources said the decision to extend the curfew was taken after some incidents of stabbing. The district administration has ordered closure of all schools in the city for the day. About 300 people have been arrested so far. The situation in the city is reported to be tense, but under control.

5 Killed in Bihar Violence; Curfew in Force

BK1411160989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] In Bihar, five persons were killed on the spot and few others injured when police opened fire to disperse a violent mob at Kamarganj village under Sultanganj police station in Bhagalpur District. The state home secretary, Mr J.L. Arya, told our Patna correspondent that the violent mob set on fire about two dozens of houses and fired several rounds. Senior district officials have rushed to the spot. Night curfew from 2100 [today, 14 November] to 1600 tomorrow will remain in force in Bhagalpur as a precautionary measure.

Meanwhile, the situation in Sasaram is reported quite normal. Several arms and explosives along with looted property have been recovered during combing operations.

Commission Warns Against 'Corrupt' Campaigning

BK1411132289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The Election Commission has condemned poll campaigns using religious symbols for furthering or prejudicially affecting the chances of individual candidates or parties. In a press note in New Delhi, the commission said such campaigns are reprehensible. It also described as highly obnoxious the use of religious symbols by circuitous and subtle devices or through third parties to escape the penalties under the law. The commission's attention has been drawn to the invidious use of religious symbols by way of placards, cutouts, slogans, and other pictorial representations during the current campaigning. Representations have also been received by the commission against specific instances in different places in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi.

The commission has advised the chief electoral officers of all states and union territories to activate the constituency committees and caution contestants against such corrupt practices prohibited by law or the model code of conduct.

Iran

UN Envoy Rejects Iraqi Claims on Tugboat Attack

LD1511074289 Tehran IRNA in English 0736 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi in a letter to the U.N. chief Tuesday [14 November] rejected for the second time Iraqi claims that Iranian gunboats had attacked an Iraqi tug boat on October 25.

He reiterated that an Iraqi vessel attacked two Iranian boats on October 13 at the mouth of Bahmanshir River, in the Persian Gulf, capturing an Iranian sailor. The incident has already been reported to United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Groups (UNIIMOG).

Kharrazi, in his letter, urged U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to take required measures to secure the release of Iranian sailor, 'Ali Yarshenasi and to prevent repetition of such incidents. The letter was in reply to October 26 letter of the Iraqi representative to Perez de Cuellar.

Kharrazi described the Iraqi attack at Bahmanshir River as an "ill-intentioned, irresponsible and aggresive act." "Such acts pose a grave threat on peace and security in the region," stressed the letter adding, "Iran's self-restraint over the incident should not be abused." "If Iraq repeats such acts, it will be responsible for the consequences," the letter noted.

Velayati Receives Message From Junblatt

LD1511114789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] In a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mr Velayati this morning, Mr Raja' Harb, special envoy of Mr Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, delivered a message from Mr Walid Junblatt to the foreign minister. The envoy also presented a report on the latest political developments in Lebanon.

Reportage on Visit of Sri Lankan Prime Minister

Arrives in Tehran 8 Nov

LD0811122989 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunge arrived here Wednesday on an official visit at the invitation of First Vice-President Hasan Habibi. He was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Habibi. During his four-day visit, the Sri Lankan prime minister is scheduled to hold talks with Iranian officials on expansion of mutual ties and economic cooperation.

Holds Talks, Tours Auto Plant

LD0911150489 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—The visiting Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dingiri Wijetunge stressed execution of U.N. Resolution 598 and announced his country's readiness for cooperation in this connection. Wijetunge who arrived Wednesday, held his second round of talks with First Vice-President Hasan Habibi today, on ways to expand bilateral ties.

The Sri Lankan premier said he was optimistic on the prospect of mutual economic ties and called for further cooperation with the Islamic Republic especially in the field of shipping.

Habibi referred to the potentials of the two countries, and expressed wilingness over exchange of students and experts as well as vocational and technical training within the framework of cultural agreements inked so far. He reiterated further cooperation between the two sides in the Non-Aligned Movement and on regional and international issues.

Habibi also called for full implementation of Resolution 598 and respect for the 1975 accord, which he said had clearly indentified sea and land borders between Iran and Iraq. He also stressed withdrawal of Iraqi forces to the internationally recognised borders.

Referring to the strategic position of the Indian Ocean, Habibi announced Iran's support for the 1990 conference in which the Indian Ocean is due to be declared as a 'region of peace'. The Iranian vice-president expressed the hope that the Indian Ocean region would remain free of superpower influence and rivalry.

Earlier in the day the Sri Lankan premier visited the Iran-Khodrow car manufacturing plant, and was impressed by the high technique and efforts involved. He said that a Sri Lankan delegation will arrive here on November 16 to hold talks with Iranian officials on the purchase of various types of vehicles.

Acting Managing Director Yusef Hashemi briefed Wijetunge on the activities of the plant, and said the plant has the capacity for producing 5,000 buses, 7,500 minibuses, and 100,000 cars and ambulances per year. He added that some 160 units within the country were producing the parts needed by the plant, and said that the major customers for Iran-Khodrow products are Dubai, Qatar, Syria, Poland, Bulgaria, China and several other countries.

Meets With Vahaji, Nurbakhsh

LD1011215389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Sri Lankan Prime Minister Wijetunge separately met Vahaji and Nurbakhsh, the ministers of commerce and finance, yesterday. During the meetings, which were also attended by Sri Lankan Trade and Shipping Minister Mansur, expansion of mutual ties and cooperation was reviewed.

During his meeting with the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Mr Nurbakhsh, the finance minister and the chairman of the two countries' joint committee, declared Iran's readiness to export medicine, cement, raisins, shoes, clothes, refrigerators, gas cookers, and washing machines to Sri Lanka. He added: We are prepared to import tea, natural rubber, spices, and corn from Sri Lanka.

During his meeting with the Sri Lankan premier, Commerce Minister Vahaji referred to cooperation between the two countries. He said: We wish to utilize all our resources to expand cooperation. He expressed the hope that thanks to the agreements reached, the volume of trade between the two countries would increase after the second joint economic committee of the two countries.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1111174189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Wijetunge, prime minister of Sri Lanka, who is visiting Iran at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation, today met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In that meeting, also attended by vice president Habibi, Economy and Finance Minister Nurbakhsh, and the Iranian head of the joint commission of the two countries, the sri Lankan prime minister conveyed warm greetings from his country's president to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He and his accompanying delegation thanked the Iranian Government for the warm reception they received.

Mr Wijetunge also reported on his talks with Iranian officials and dignitaries and called for expanded ties and cooperation. At that meeting Sri Lankan Minister of Trade and Shipping Abdul Razak Mansoor described the talks as fruitful, adding: We are prepared to learn great lessons from the Islamic revolution of Iran and receive inspiration from the noble thoughts and ideas of Imam Khomeyni. He added: Although only 10 percent of the people of Sri Lanka are Muslims, apart from myself three other ministers in the cabinet and also the leader and the speaker of the Sri Lankan parliament are Muslims. We would be glad if you would accept our sincere invitation to visit our country.

He also referred to the harmonious policies of Iran and Sri Lanka at the nonaligned meeting, the condemnation of the Zionists and racist policies in South Africa, and the support for the struggles of the Palestinian people, and asked for the expansion of such cooperation in international organizations and forums.

At the end of his remarks, Abdul Razak Mansoor announced support for Islamic Republic's goals to eliminate oppression and support the world's oppressed, and stressed Sri Lankan support for the complete implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

At that meeting Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked him for the warm and friendly greetings of the Sri Lankan president and said: We are pleased you have come to the Islamic Republic of Iran and would like to expand relations with you. Referring to the remarks made by Mr Abdul Razak Mansoor on the situation of the Muslims in Sri Lanka, he said: We assess as positive the cooperation between ideologies in Sri Lanka and the presence of that country's Muslims on the political and social scene, and we hope that such good relations will always be protected.

Meets With Velayati, Karrubi

LD1111174889 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 11, IRNA—Expansion of bilateral ties was discussed in a meeting between Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunge and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Saturday. The talks also covered regional and international issues, and the opening of the Sri Lankan Embassy here. Colombo has decided to open a diplomatic mission here early next year. Tehran already has its mission in the island state.

Earlier in the day, Premier Wijetunge and his entourage which are since last Wednesday [as received], met with Majlis Speaker Hoj. Mehdi Karrubi. Karrubi stressed Iran's belief on expansion of ties with Third World countries including Sri Lanka. Iran, he noted, never spares any efforts for carrying development projects in Third World countries. The Western propaganda against the Islamic Republic "is largely due to our support for the Third World and progressive countries," said the Majlis speaker.

Towards the end of the meeting, Wijetunge invited Hoj. Karrubi to visit the Indian Ocean state, lying off the southern tip of the Indian Peninsula.

Departs 11 Nov; Memorandum Signed

LD1111184689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The Sri Lankan prime minister, who came to Tehran at the head of a political-economic delegation, left Tehran today after signing a memorandum of understanding. Our reporter sends this report:

[Correspondent] High-ranking Iranian and Sri Lankan officials ended their 4 days of talks in Tehran by signing an economic and trade memorandum of understanding. The memorandum of understanding was signed in the presence of Mr Habibi, the Islamic Republic's first deputy president; Mr Wijetunge, the Sri Lankan prime minister; Mr Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance; and Mr Abdul Razak Mansoor, the Sri Lankan minister for foreign trade and shipping. The memorandum of understanding was signed at the end of the second meeting of the joint Iran-Sri Lankan economic cooperation commission.

On the basis of the memorandum of understanding, Sri Lankan will buy 360,000 to 600,000 tonnes of oil, purchase 500 buses, cement, household appliances, and agricultural products such as raisins from Iran. Iran will import 20,000 tonnes of tea, tires, pencil lead, and other necessary goods each year. By sending specialists and providing 12,000 quality tea saplings, Sri Lanka will help improve tea production in our country. The two countries will cooperate in the field of fisheries. They will also sign a cultural agreement in the future in connection with cultural and scientific fields, the draft for which has been put at the disposal of the two countries.

The Sri Lankan minister for trade and shipping said in an interview with the voice and vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the two countries will cooperate in the future toward the establishment of an air and a shipping line. In connection with the Sri Lankan delegation's trip to Khuzestan, he referred to the fact that his country is one of the current members of the Security Council and expressed that country's support for Resolution 598. [passage omitted]

5 Cultural Revolution Council Members Named

LD1411110889 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Tuesday appointed five new members to the High Council of the Cultural Revolution.

In a letter to President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the leader introduced the new members as Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas Mahfuzi, Hasan Habibi, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Mostafa Mir Salim and head of the

Majlis Higher Education Committee, currently Mohammad Seyyed Taslimi.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas Mahfuzi is one of the three representatives of vali-ye faqih (religious jurisprudent) at universities. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is also head of the High Council of the Cultural Revolution. Velayati is the foreign minister, Habibi is the first vice-president and Mir Salim presidential advisor for research activities.

In his letter Ayatollah Khamene'i noted that the appointments were made to increase the efficiency and valuable services of the council, and wished ever-increasing success for its members.

Cultural Revolution Council Meets

LD1511115389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] The Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution met last night in the presence of the president. Karrubi, speaker of the Majlis; Yazdi, head of the judicial branch; and members of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution attended. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was elected chairman of the council. Yazdi and Hasan Habibi were elected deputy chairmen of the council, Seyyed Mohammad Reza Hashemi-Golpayegani as secretary of the council, and Purjavadi and Va'ez-Zadeh as clerks of the council. The membership of Mir Salim, (Jaspi), and Takmili of the joint council of the committees of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution was approved.

Following reports concerning student affairs, particularly the problems related to student hostels, the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution expressed regret over the recent bitter event [where some students forced their way into a hostel on the premises of the Foundation of the Deprived] and its consequences, and called on the students as the true forces of the revolution to preserve their vigilance and alertness to avoid a repetition of these kinds of events which benefit no one. For this reason, the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution appointed a committee to investigate this issue and requested the appropriate officials to follow up the problems and attend to them. While gratitude was expressed to the relevant officials within the government who have been busy with providing welfare facilities for the students for some time now, notably in connection with hostels, they were asked to act quickly on this important matter.

Committee Commander on Drug Enforcement

NC1011081689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] With the formation of 200 permanent bases in Tehran Province, implementation of the third phase of the "Val Adiyat" exercises of the Revolution Guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee will start tomorrow, Saturday, 11 November, and will last for 10 days. Mr Qaza'i, commander of the Tehran Province Islamic Revolution Committee, was interviewed and spoke about the implementation of the third phase of these exercises. We invite you to listen to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Qaza'i] Apart from previous steps, the third phase of the "Val Adiyat" plan includes some other special features; namely, we formed permanent bases in more than 200 areas of Tehran Province. Tents have been set up in some of the city's important squares and neighborhoods. General sentry posts and regional bases will be operated, and plans have been made to set up honorary posts to encourage the people's participation.

In addition, we will expand activities in the suburbs and the villages, and by coordinating with village councils and township councils, during this phase we will be able to fight against the traffickers and addicts who have sought refuge in the areas around the city because of the intensification of the struggle inside the city.

More than 75 percent of the force is employed in this plan. Honorary forces of the Islamic Revolution Committees are to be used, moreover, and the city mobilization has been called to cooperate with the Islamic Revolution Committee so that we can fight this horrific phenomenon.

We have prepared special patrols in this phase. The tents set up in the various parts of the city will be open from 0700 to 2000. During the night, special patrols of the committee will be actively and extensively present throughout the province, and citizens can give these patrols any information they have. We have also planned special operations in which the brothers who receive and confirm the information will respond immediately. These are among the special features in this phase that will enable us to act immediately.

In addition to telephone number 128 which the dear citizens can use to give information to the committee, they can also use the following telephone numbers: 361001-3. Any information received by the brothers will be immediately investigated with their special patrols.

As you know, during the first phase of the plan the objective was to identify traffickers and addicts. The objective of the second phase of the plan was arrest. The figures that we have in hand from these two phases show successes in these two phases. In the first phase, we were able to identify and to arrest more than 4,287 traffickers. We also arrested 2,863 vagrant addicts who were in dire condition. Moreover, 865 kg of opium and heroin were confiscated from the traffickers and addicts. During the second phase, which was the action phase, more than 2,772 kg of drugs—opium and heroin—were confiscated from traffickers, and 3,737 traffickers and sellers were arrested.

Figures show that because the second phase was the action phase, a large amount of drugs was confiscated, but that the number of traffickers was less because in this phase the major traffickers were the target. The number of addicts arrested during the second phase was 6,570.

These people had been identified in the first phase but only vagrant addicts were arrested, while in the second phase—and once the deadline given to the addicts expired—arrests began and 6,570 were arrested.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

* RESALAT Reports on 29 Oct Majlis Session

90OI0033A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
30 Oct 89 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majlis Department—Yesterday morning the Majlis convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and then continued chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemiyan.

During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, Mr Yunes Mohammadi and Dr Habibi, deputies from Khorramshahr and Tehran, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majlis began its agenda.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was continued consideration of the report from the First Council of the Joint Defense and Domestic Affairs Commission concerning the plan to append an article as a supplement to the Public Service Law, all of which passed.

The second item on the agenda was an emergency plan to waive most of the requirements for employment in government organizations for combatants and prisoners, and the emergency plan was approved.

The final item on the agenda was a plan to amend Paragraph D, Supplementary Note 51 of the Budget Law for 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], continued consideration of which was postponed until the next session.

Printed below for our esteemed readers are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers, the deputies' memos, and details of the proceedings.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr Yunes Mohammadi, the representative of the people of Khorramshahr. During his talk, he referred to a comment by his holiness the imam (may God be pleased with him), who said, look upon reconstruction as something like the war. He said: This means just that. Just as all of the resources, pens, and provisions were employed in the service of the war, they must now be used for reconstruction.

Unfortunately, however, it is not this way. You would think there had been no war, and that the villages had not been destroyed in attacks by the enemies of Islam. There is talk of the Five-Year Plan and reconstruction of the country, but the matter of rebuilding the cities and villages of Iran seem to have been forgotten.

He added: Our respected and great officials know that just as our honor and dignity hinged on the war, it now hinges on the reconstruction of the damaged cities. It is humiliating for us that our enemy goes to Basra and al-Faw a few times a month and has now completed reconstruction of Basra and is rebuilding al-Faw, while our nation and officials, who won so many victories in the war, are now silent and the reconstruction of the cities and villages are in the preliminary stages. Our war-stricken cities are proof of the oppression of our martyr-nurturing government and nation. The war-stricken cities and villages are proof of the crimes of the superpowers and reactions of the area, all of whom united in this way against an oppressed nation that arose to free itself from suffering, and they are documentation of the oppression of the Mohammadan Islam (peace be upon him), which has been attacked in this way throughout history every time it has arisen to liberate the oppressed masses, and imperialists of this kind encourage and empower Americanized Islam to fight the Mohammadan Islam.

Mr Mohammadi discussed the heroism and conditions in Khorramshahr during the war, and he noted: This city, which was destroyed by enemy persecution, must be rebuilt through the kindness of friends. It is entirely unfortunate, however, that it is not this way. It is regrettable that the reconstruction of Basra has been completed, while the reconstruction of Khorramshahr is still in the preliminary stages. The oppressed refugees of the imposed war repeatedly ask: When can we return to Khorramshahr, Minu Island, and Arvand Kenar? Is there hope for us to live and rebuild our ruined homes? When will the return of the people of Khorramshahr, Minu Island, and Arvand Kenar be announced? Why discriminate against them in the reconstruction? I have no answer to give to these questions.

He added: When the enemy announces that he will be heroic in the work of reconstruction and divert all resources and attention especially to Basra and al-Faw, we ought to do the same thing, in the same way that we reacted in kind to all the enemy's measures during the war.

He noted: In the years 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983], 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984], and 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] the culture of reconstruction had a special place in society the inspiration of the explanations and commands of his holiness the imam. The people, just as they saw war service as sacred, saw their help and participation in reconstruction work as a sacred matter, but now that the cease-fire is about a year old, reconstruction has no place in society and among the respected officials. In the year 1362 the reconstruction budget was 100 billion rials, when we were in the throes of war, and this year's budget was 69 billion rials, and the reconstruction officials are saying that it is almost depleted and they want to present a supplement to the Majlis.

He added: According to the respected officials of Khuzestan Province, 400 billion rials are needed to rebuild the cities and villages of Khuzestan, meaning that is the

extent of the damages caused to the economic facilities and the housing resources of the people, yet Mr 'Abodi says that the housing costs alone are 400 billion rials. This year 150 million tomans have been allocated to rebuild housing in Khorramshahr, and 40 million tomans to build Khorramshahr's rural housing. If the reconstruction of Khorramshahr, its villages and other war-stricken cities proceeds in this manner, it will take hundreds of years to rebuild them.

He said: The respected officials say that the second phase of reconstruction of the Abadan refinery will take about 4 more months, God willing. The people of Khorramshahr, Minu Island, and Arvand Kenar are asking: When will we return to our ruined homes? The imam said that the government without the nation and the nation without the government's support cannot by themselves solve the problem of reconstruction. They must be together.

He also called upon the great leader and the Expediency Discernment Council to give the necessary attention to the matter of rebuilding the war-stricken cities and provinces, and then he added: I invite Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, to visit the cities ruined by the imposed war, especially Khorramshahr and Abadan, and to put reconstruction at the head of the national agenda, just as he has himself proclaimed this decade of the revolution as the decade of reconstruction. The reconstruction of Khorramshahr, like its liberation, will be a particular source of pride for us, and I call upon the respected Majlis to give greater attention to the reconstruction budget and to give special treatment to the matter of reconstruction. I call upon the respected officials who have always advocated an end to deprivation in the deprived areas to take note that the deprivation and oppression in the war-stricken areas is caused by opposition to Islam and the sacred government of the Islamic Republic by criminals and imperialists. I call upon one holding the great position of leader of the revolution and the respected officials to explain to the people the role of emigration and migrants in the history of Islam and our revolution.

He called upon the chief justice of the judicial power to take note of the law enacted by the Majlis concerning the non-evacuation of areas assigned to refugees of the imposed war. He noted: Unfortunately, the many interviews which have been held concerning the reconstruction of Khorramshahr and Abadan have given our nation the idea that the refugees do not want to return to their cities, yet these people are waiting day and night and are hoping to receive aid as soon as possible to return to their cities and villages. Unfortunately, much pressure has been put on the refugees by landlords.

In conclusion, the Khorramshahr deputy submitted other memos to the executive officials.

The second and final speaker was Dr Habibi, the representative of the people of Tehran. He mentioned 13 Aban [4 November], which has been named National Anti-World Imperialism Day. He said:

After the triumph of the Islamic revolution, control of the revolution's executive affairs was taken by a group that negated revolutionary struggle year after year. Efforts were made by this group to subdue the revolution's greatest asset, the revolutionary fervor of the people. This group insisted that the people and the youth return to their homes and leave management of the revolution's affairs to them. In this way a moderate course came to dominate the revolution, and measures were taken of which everyone is aware and remembers. As this progressive trend continued, which gave the outward appearance of a moderate line, except that it bore the filthy seal of America, meaning Brzezinski. In the wake of that the revolutionary assault began anew and the spies' nest was occupied by the revolutionary youth. During this assault, both America and the moderate line and its supporters became symbols and despite the uproar that ensued the occupation continued with the decisive support of his holiness the imam (may God be pleased with him), producing the revolutionary movement of 13 Aban and the destruction of America's crown of power. Our nation believed that it could stand against American imperialism, which had promoted its might and power and instilled fear, terror, and anxiety in the hearts of the people. America struggled and hatched many plots, but in the face of the nation's iron will these efforts were nothing but a reflection of humiliation. Consequently, America resorted to an economic embargo, but our nation adopted the slogan that we are the children of Ramadan, we are not afraid of you. America severed relations with our nation and country, and on the orders of our great imam our nation celebrated this cutting of relations. We don't need a relationship between a wolf and a lamb, the imam said. The outcome of 13 Aban for our nation and all the oppressed nations of the world was self-respect. In addition to our success on 13 Aban, when we were able, as the imam said, to taste the struggle with America in practice, we even succeeded in solving many of the domestic problems which had been imposed on the revolution. Succeeding in the struggle with America that began on 13 Aban, we were able to solve the secondary problems of that day by eliminating trends such as liberalism, which had descended on the revolution like leprosy, as well as the hypocrites, the Khalq-e Mosalman, the counterrevolutionary mini-groups, and many such trends.

Continuing his talk, he noted that our great nation is insistent and steadfast in its struggle with world imperialism and its agents. He said: The Majlis enacting National Anti-World Imperialism Day, which is the quintessence of the nation's virtues, is an example of such thinking.

Overall, three strategies can be proposed and considered against America.
1—Struggle against America and effort to cut all the roots of dependence and keeping the spirit of the revolution alive.

2—Wait to see what happens in the future.
3—Submit and accept America's conditions and restrictions.

Of all the strategies we have considered, it is clear that our nation has chosen struggle against America, and the enactment of National Anti-World Imperialism Day is an indication of such an iron will, as the valuable heritage of the revolutionary fervor as well as his holiness the imam (may God be pleased with him). The statements from the one holding the great position of leader of the revolution point to the same line, and for this reason I want to state that we must take care not to submit to America.

Dr Habibi stressed: The children of the revolution, who have the spirit and passion of the revolution, the passionate statements of the imam, and the legacy of that great divine man in their heads, must strive with the utmost vigilance to keep the spirit of struggle with America alive in their own passionate hearts and minds. These days America is trying, with the help of its propaganda organizations, to indicate that Iran would like to accept a strategy of hesitation or inclining to submission, yet our nation is not ready to incline or to submit.

The speaker then added: The Majlis and the nation's executive organizations must be fiercely vigilant and not permit impostors, people who believe in the West and those defeated in the revolution and humiliated in the events of 13 Aban, when the drums of their disgrace were beat on the roof of our nation and they were shamed before the world, to come out of their hiding places and persuade the people to silence and isolation and invite them to be silent before America in the name of evaluating the past and choosing a reasonable path in any way. This is a danger that continues to threaten the revolution, and we must decisively struggle against this threat with the ultimate awareness.

The Tehran deputy mentioned the splendid marches of 13 Aban. He said:

The great deputies certainly know that there will be activities throughout the country on this day. University people, the seminaries, the schools, and the partisans of God will all, God willing, participate in the 13 Aban march, and the plan is for such a march to be held going to the spies nest in Tehran, and God willing our nation, a nation that remembers the imam and continues in his path and whose cry of death to America reverberates over the corpse of America and its followers and adherents, will keep this revolutionary passion alive.

Detailed Proceedings

The first item on yesterday's public Majlis session's agenda was continued consideration of the report from the First Council of the Joint Defense and Domestic Affairs Commission concerning the plan to append an article as a supplement to the Public Service Law.

Concerning this plan deputies Hashem Zehi and Movahedi Saveji spoke against rejection and deputies Dr Shahrzad and Dr Sheybani spoke in favor of rejection. After comments from the commission expert and the government's representative, the entire plan was put to a vote and passed.

Article 1 says: All male graduates with the disease control degree who were accepted based on the provisions of the Health Care Technology and Disease Control Training Law enacted 5/18/ 1362 [9 August 1983] in the national university admission exams in Bahman of 1364 [26 January-19 February 1986] (third cycle), are exempted from military service if they serve for 5 years as provided in Article 4 of the aforementioned law. With regard to those accepted for the year 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988] and afterwards, they will be dealt with on the basis of Article 3 of the bill to amend Note 2 Article 1 and the Supplement 1 to the article in the Public Service Law dated 8/3/1368 [25 October 1989].

Second Agenda Item

The second item on the agenda was the emergency plan to waive most of the requirements for employment in government organizations for combatants and prisoners of war.

Concerning the emergency proposal, Mr Eshaq Jahangiri spoke in opposition and Panahandeh spoke in favor. Then the emergency proposal was put to a vote and rejected.

Final Agenda Item

The final item on the agenda was the report from the Plan and Budget Commission concerning the rejection of the plan to amend Paragraph D, Supplementary Note 51 of the Budget Law for 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990].

Concerning this proposal deputies Gharibani, Taha, Ha'erizadeh, 'Abodi, and 'Azimi spoke against rejection, and deputies Movahedi Saveji, Alviri, Taheri, Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, and Jahangiri spoke in favor of rejection. Then the proposal was put to a vote, the results of which will be announced at the next session.

There will be a public session of the Islamic Consultative Majlis tomorrow morning.

Memos from the Deputies to the Nation's Executive Officials

Mr Mahmudiyan, Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad deputy: to the Plan and Budget Organization, review the accomplishments of the Plan and Budget Organization in Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad.
Mr 'Azimi, Torqabeh and Chenaran deputy: to the minister of energy, expedite procurement of potable water for Torqabeh.

Mr Robati, Shahriyar deputy: to the minister of education and training, expedite construction and completion of the schools in the city of Qods (Qal'eh-ye Hasan Khan).
Deputies Damadi and Shoja'i of Sari: to the interior minister, establish a municipality in Sarak and district offices in Islamabad and Estakhr-e Posht.
Mr Sudi, Khorramabad deputy: to the minister of roads and transport, expedite the asphalting of the old Cheghlundi road of Khorramabad; to the Plan and Budget Organization, include coverage for Moghol-e Poshteh of Hoseynabad and Fazel Ab of Khorramabad in the Five-Year Plan.
Mr Kavusi, Tuysarkan deputy: to the interior minister, appoint a governor-general for the Province of Hamadan; to the minister of housing and urban development, prepare a comprehensive map of Tuysarkan.
Deputy Habibi of Qa'emshahr, deputy Nariman of Babol, and deputy Hoseyni-Kuhestani of Behshahr: to the minister of petroleum, calling for serious investigation of the gas distribution project for Neka-Nur.
Mr Hedayati, Faridan and Faridan Shahr deputy: to the minister of roads and transport, build a road and change the urban and rural roads; to the interior minister, strengthen the police, the gendarmes, and the Islamic Revolutionary Committees; to the minister of culture and Islamic guidance and the Propaganda Organization and the Propaganda Office, create and strengthen the relevant offices and pay greater attention to the area's cultural problems.
Mr Tateli, Marivan deputy: to the president of the Republic and the minister of education and training, investigate the education and training programs in Marivan, investigate the management situation in Kordestan Province education and training.
Mr Mohaqar, Bojnurd deputy: to the minister of construction jihad, expedite the improvements to the 15 villages of Bojnerd; to the minister of Islamic guidance, expedite the completion of the Jajarm Art and Culture Complex; to the minister of petroleum concerning natural gas distribution in the cities of Garmeh and Jajarm and the villages of Masir.

* Satirical Columnist 'Gol Aqa' Interviewed

90010020a Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
14 Oct 89 pp 3, 6

[Interview with "Gol Aqa"; date, place not given]

[Text] Note—Two years ago, we asked Gol Aqa for an interview. He did not agree. We asked the reason and got no answer. Last week Gol Aqa declared his willingness to give this interview. We were surprised, but he was not. In any case, this is Gol Aqa, and his manner of answering a newspaper's questions must differ from that of others. Naturally, a few questions need to be added to the ones that were prepared for Gol Aqa at that time because the least of the differences between these two interviews is the presence of the column "Two Words of Straight Talk" on page three of the newspaper two years ago and its absence now.

We wanted to talk with Gol Aqa, but we did not know which Gol Aqa we should speak to: the poet Gol Aqa, the distinguished writer Gol Aqa, the teacher Gol Aqa, or the Gol Aqa of "Two Words of Straight Talk"—the same Gol Aqa whose followers await him every afternoon in the newspaper's long lines, and the cancellation of whose column produced a flood of telephone calls and letters to the newspaper; the Gol Aqa who was the voice of the people, and whose audience, as he said himself, were those who serve society, rather than the leaders of the people; the Gol Aqa who, in the eloquent and satirical style of "Two Words of Straight Talk," identified deviation. In other words, he used satirical language for teaching and instructing, and for performing a social obligation based on an exalted aim.

In any case, it is a special privilege to speak with Gol Aqa, and because the blessing of the "Two Words of Straight Talk" of two years ago is now conferred again on the newspaper ETTELA'AT, and since questioning one of today's most capable satirical writers presents special problems of its own, despite our best efforts, we found it difficult to ask about Gol Aqa's style, and we concluded that perhaps only Gol Aqa could pose the basic questions about himself. In any case, with these considerations in mind, we began our questions.

What follows are a "few words of straight talk" from our own "Gol Aqa." Some time ago, abruptly and without warning, he decided to lay down his pen and be done with his column "Straight Talk."

Some ETTELA'AT readers may not know that throughout his career as "Gol Aqa," Gol Aqa has been free and with full discretion to deliver as much straight talk as he likes. The truth is that the column "Two Words of Straight Talk" has been treated as the undisputed domain of "Gol Aqa," and in printing his interview we have continued this practice, in that in this interview with "Gol Aqa" he has said whatever his longing heart desired. ETTELA'AT has printed all of "Gol Aqa" 's comments, exactly as it has done with all 742 of his "Two Words of Straight Talk," without the slightest change. May God grant favor on our destiny and that of Gol Aqa.

[ETTELA'AT] When you telephoned and declared your willingness to be interviewed, I was truly taken by surprise. I remember that 2 years ago I insistently asked you for an interview several times, but you did not agree to it. What happened that you took the initiative yourself to be interviewed after 2 years?

[Gol Aqa] During these 2 years, others besides yourself, from newspapers and magazines, have proposed interviews. One journal even sent a message in jest saying that if I did not agree to an interview they would write the questions and answers themselves and print them as an exclusive interview with Gol Aqa. When I decided to be interviewed, I preferred that this interview be with the newspaper ETTELA'AT, for several reasons. One is that you were the first person to invite me to be interviewed,

and in this respect you take precedence over others. Another reason is that the original and primary supporters of Gol Aqa have been the readers of ETTELA'AT. Perhaps another reason is that selections from the 742 "Straight Talk" columns printed in ETTELA'AT will soon be published in book form, meaning that by giving this interview I will both answer your request and that of Gol Aqa's readers, and promote my book.

[ETTELA'AT] I imagine this will be good news for many of our readers.

[Gol Aqa] That I am promoting my book?

[ETTEAL'AT] No, that you are making a book from your "Straight Talk" columns. How many of them did you say are to be printed in this book?

[Gol Aqa] About half of them.

[ETTELA'AT] And you say that you removed the others as an act of "self-censorship?"

[Gol Aqa] If by "self-censorship" you mean the elimination of weak and mediocre material, yes.

[ETTELA'AT] Mr...

[Gol Aqa] No, stick with "Gol Aqa." In this interview I am simply "Gol Aqa."

[ETTELA'AT] But almost all of your readers know your real name.

[Gol Aqa] But I have hardly ever acknowledged or confirmed that the name that everyone knows is my real name.

[ETTELA'AT] But the newspapers have printed your real name.

[Gol Aqa] The newspapers have also published reports of the discovery of 10 tons of pure gold.

[ETTELA'AT] But they also printed retractions of that.

[Gol Aqa] Very well, I was lazy and neglected to print a timely denial concerning my name.

[ETTELA'AT] In any case, the readers want to know who Gol Aqa is. What is he saying? How old is he? In short, the very questions that are usually the first things asked at every interview.

[Gol Aqa] Gol Aqa is Gol Aqa. What he says, as witnessed by friend and foe, is this very "Straight Talk," he is in his 40's, and what else did you say?

[ETTELA'AT] I had no other comment. When did you start writing?

[Gol Aqa] When I was 5 or 6 years old. What do you mean?

[ETTELA'AT] I meant when did you begin your writing career, your satire?

[Gol Aqa] I was a member of the editorial board of the newspaper TOWFIQ, I probably started when I was about 20. Do you consider what I write "satire"?

[ETTELA'AT] Isn't it?

[Gol Aqa] I don't know. Perhaps.

[ETTELA'AT] In any case, the people of our society view your writing, in this style and form, as "satire."

[Gol Aqa] No, the people of our society consider it "straight talk." The officials are the ones who call it "satire."

[ETTELA'AT] In any case, although your literary writings and poetry, which have been printed here and there, are testimony to your ability in these areas, your most consistent and continuous writing has been satire. Why have you chosen this form, and what abilities do you have for this form, satire?

[Gol Aqa] In my poems and serious writing, I have pursued the same objective I have pursued in satire. In the first, poetry and serious writing, I support principles that I believe to be deserving and worthy of support. I try to construct something in those writings that will validate something already constructed. This is the positive aspect of the work. Of course my poetry and writings are relatively few, or at least not many of them have been printed. It is the responsibility of every human being to work to validate and support what he considers right. It is meaningless, however, to validate good things without rejecting the bad. That is, the task of a living human being is not to see only the good. In the second category, what you have called "satire," I try to see bad and defective things. This is the negative aspect of the work.

As a writer of satire I am, as the boys at the front would say, a "saboteur," but in this sabotage I aim to support and validate good things, that is I write with this objective. Only God knows to what extent I am right, but as to whether or not I have been successful, my writings are there to be judged by those with an aware conscience.

[ETTELA'AT] Now that we are talking about satire, it is not a bad idea if we ask you what is the real place of political satire in our society? And what is the difference between that and lampooning and buffoonery?

[Gol Aqa] The place of satire is nowhere, it is in its own place. One who writes satire must ask himself why he writes. I answered your question in answering the previous question. Likewise the favorable reception by the readers of your newspaper for "Two Words of Straight Talk" ought to show the place for political satire. Of course, I think that with regard to Gol Aqa the officials and the people have a common opinion to an extent, except for a few exceptional instances where there was a negative response, unfortunately from the officials. With all that, the tolerance for a writer who wrote political satire for the purpose of sabotage and with the objective of denouncing evil and incompetence, even in the most intense days of the war, was remarkable.

[ETTELA'AT] Concerning the difference between satire and buffoonery...

[Gol Aqa] This is a question for scholars.

[ETTELA'AT] Well, a critic is a scholar before everything else.

[Gol Aqa] But that is an academic and technical topic that has no place in this interview. Without getting into that discussion, I must say that satire is surgical, while clowning, lampooning, and buffoonery, and this is not a value judgment or a negation of these things, are diversions in life. Satire is instruction and teaching based on an exalted objective. To write satire is to fulfill a social obligation. Satire is a slap in the face of a poisoned individual to keep him awake. The aim is to help him stay alive. It is like pressure applied to the chest of a drowning victim. Sometimes we have to break his ribs, but it revives his lungs and saves his life.

[ETTELA'AT] As I was reviewing the period of your "Straight Talk" columns for this interview, I realized that you have directed most of your attention to officials. In other words, you mostly broke their ribs. Why?

[Gol Aqa] Good for you, you have made the right distinction.

[ETTELA'AT] Did you have a special objective in making this choice?

[Gol Aqa] Yes.

[ETTELA'AT] Why?

[Gol Aqa] Because these officials are the guardians of the rights of the people. In my view, the officials are not the leaders of the people, they are their servants. I tried to help them so that they would not be remiss in serving the people.

[ETTELA'AT] Don't you think this should be done by someone who is himself innocent of shortcomings? Do you consider yourself above reproach?

[Gol Aqa] No, only God is without fault. To the extent that I am able, I observe the principle, what's good for the goose is good for the gander.

[ETTELA'AT] Critics are usually faulted because they are mostly involved with criticism and when the question of solutions arises, they are unable to offer a solution. What is your view?

[Gol Aqa] The optimum case is when the critic also offers the solution. The solution is the completion of criticism. Even without that, however, criticism is not deficient or without value. Suppose the government makes a decision that is not quite right and the critic understands this, and understands it properly. Even if the critic does not have a solution, shouldn't he criticize this improper and inappropriate decision? I think this is that very "constructive criticism," which, unfortunately, has not been properly understood in our society.

[ETTELA'AT] They also say of criticism that it is a discussion of good things and bad things. In your writing, I have not seen you discussing the good things as you discuss the bad things. Isn't this a defect in your writing?

[Gol Aqa] No, defects arise when I accept your description of criticism and then do not implement it in practice. Moreover, I think that if criticism takes the form of satire, one does not have such expectations. Look, if someone is about to fall into a well and I warn him, does he have the right to take me by the collar and tell me that now that I have warned him I must guide him on his way? In other words, if I really don't know the way and I see the well, must I be silent? Anyway, I wouldn't say there is a well here. If I am Gol Aqa, I will say, brother! There is something in your path that if you fall into it there will be only a pair of ears left of you, and a torn coat and trousers. Then who would pay you what they owe you?

[ETTELA'AT] As one of society's able writers, poets, and satirists, and perhaps the most able satirist of contemporary Iranian society, how do you see the future of Iranian society?

[Gol Aqa] So, now that you have said all these things about me, what can I say other than good things? If you want a more serious answer, however, I must say that as long as the people are present on the scene, there is no serious danger. In one "Straight Talk" column I wrote that as long as the revolutionary patience of the officials does not end, the bounty of the people will not end.

[ETTELA'AT] To continue this interview, I want to discuss the impact of your writing. After Gol Aqa so to speak "bloomed" and the column "Two Words of Straight Talk" established itself, writers in the newspapers of Tehran and the municipalities began writing columns in imitation of your work.

[Gol Aqa] No, I don't think so. I think that the newspapers themselves were tempted to print such columns and then writers were found for them. Of course there was already a precedent for this in the press.

[ETTELA'AT] Even if there was a precedent, your style is exclusively your own, while the similarity of the work of those who imitate you to your own is undeniable. After you retired the column, there was speculation that perhaps one of the reasons you stopped was to protest these very imitations.

[Gol Aqa] No, it isn't this way. Perhaps those in the future may say that the work of those who imitate me is of higher quality.

In any case, each person has done his own work and when I retired the column I paid no attention to such matters.

[ETTELA'AT] However, in the last "Straight Talk" you said explicitly, "Shagholam says: Oh sir... How wonderful to see you. What style, what method? These days

they are making such a mess of Your Excellency's style and way of writing that there is nothing left of it. It won't be long before they copy your very pen, glasses, and special cane as well...."

[Gol Aqa] I was joking with the imitators.

[ETTELA'AT] On the subject of your writing, it is not a bad idea if we mention some other points. I remember that on Nowruz 1367 [21 March 1988] KEYHAN HAVA'I conducted a ten-question telephone survey which a number of people answered. One question was who was the best critic during the previous year (1366 [21 March 1987 - 20 March 1988]). The people who named Gol Aqa as the best critic of the year and "Straight Talk" as the best criticism of the year were Seyyed Reza Taqavi (Majlis deputy from Damghan), Jalal Rafi' (writer), 'Ali Musavi Garmarudi (poet), Mrs Zahra Rahnavard (writer and poet), Ghaffur Garshasebi (concession owner and manager of the newspaper 'ABRAR) and Amir Hoseyn Fardi (editor of KEYHAN-E BACHEHA).

[Gol Aqa] If they weren't just being foolish, they must have been kidding me. Did Mrs Zahra Rahnavard really praise Gol Aqa?

[ETTELA'AT] Do you mean you didn't see these answers?

[Gol Aqa] No, I'm earthbound, I can't get my hands on KEYHAN HAVA'I! What did Mrs Rahnavard say?

[ETTELA'AT] If you want to know exactly, shall I read the text to you?

[Gol Aqa] Yes, read it.

[ETTELA'AT] She said: Overall, Gol Aqa's criticism was very constructive and good, including his criticism of one of my poems, even though that was not proper and relevant criticism and it upset the revolutionary brothers and sisters. However, since criticism itself, as the Imam of the nation says, is a "divine gift," one should be thankful for it, and we must await more of his influential criticism.

[Gol Aqa] Indeed....Then she too, like everyone else, supports "proper and relevant" criticism!

[ETTELA'AT] Everyone supports proper and relevant criticism.

[Gol Aqa] No doubt everyone thinks that criticism is "proper and relevant" when it is not aimed at them!

[ETTELA'AT] You've also been mentioned in the domestic press. For example, in this year's New Year's edition of the journal ADINEH....

[Gol Aqa] I've seen that.

[ETTELA'AT] They said you are continuing in the tradition of Dehkhoda.

[Gol Aqa] That wasn't fair to Dehkhoda!

[ETTELA'AT] And that your satire is "unequalled" in recent years for its brevity and beauty.

[Gol Aqa] That wasn't fair to "brevity and beauty" either! By the way, do you have access to the expatriate Persian press?

[ETTELA'AT] No, we're domestic. We don't have access to the rest of the world! However, a letter was printed from Professor Jamalzadeh in an issue of ETTELA'AT where he sent greetings to "Gol Aqa the speaker and seeker of truth" and prayed for your well-being.

[Gol Aqa] The fact that Professor Jamalzadeh praised Gol Aqa is due to his good will, but all the people outside the country do not approach contemporary Iranian literature the way he does. For example, there is a journal published abroad called RUZEGAR-E NOW by Mr Esma'il Purvali, evidently he's the editor. He printed something by me and in its introduction said that in that atmosphere of stifled truth it is a masterpiece of its genre, and this sort of praise. He called my writing a masterpiece and the environment it was published in "stifling."

I consider this sort of praise, where the author's aim is to settle accounts with the revolution, as unjust. Or for example, the newspaper IRAN ZADEH, evidently a publication of the National Front in Europe, wrote that the newspaper ETTELA'AT is using the appealing writing of Gol Aqa to appease its opposition faction. Likewise, other publications mention Gol Aqa from time to time, but they have some other objective.

[ETTELA'AT] In any case, these things show that the name Gol Aqa, as the journal ADINEH said, is proclaimed loudly throughout the world.

[Gol Aqa] But it is unjust if they do not say that Gol Aqa writes in that very environment that they say is "stifling."

[ETTELA'AT] Meaning that you, who criticize everyone and everything, are unhappy with what they say?

[Gol Aqa] Yes, but we must ask, why am I unhappy with what is said by people who have praised me? The truth is that I am not pleased by injustices concerning the revolution.

[ETTELA'AT] Well, they may be opposed to it.

[Gol Aqa] So they may be, who told them not to be opposed to it? Does every opponent have to be unjust? Some of them, from a distance, say things about my writing which contradict reality. For example, I have heard that Mr 'Abbas Pahlavan just recently (evidently in the month of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September]) was interviewed by the VOICE OF AMERICA and said that the regime even refused to tolerate Gol Aqa, who is one of their own, and silenced his pen. Well, this is completely unjust. Mr Do'a'i is deeply distressed by the fact that I have retired this column. However, Mr

Pahlavan says on American radio that they have cancelled Gol Aqa's "Straight Talk" column. This is an injustice.

Whatever I wrote during those 5 years for ETTELA'AT was published, without a single word being deleted. Your colleagues know that I do not allow even one word of my writing to be altered. I am truly embarrassed by the breadth of Mr Do'a'i's generosity. Through the life of ETTELA'AT, few writers have written in this newspaper as freely as I have.

[ETTELA'AT] Then why did you retire?

[Gol Aqa] It is precisely as you say, the question is "why did I retire," not "why did they cancel me." However, today I do not want to explain all of the reasons for this. I do not want our enemies to abuse these writings of mine, because I can see that in this regard the opposition does not observe justice. However, as an independent writer who wrote political and social satire for several years, I felt that I ought not to write in that style any longer. It is the officials who must ask why I have withdrawn the criticism of them, which is a requirement for reform. After all, I cannot write criticism everyday while they continue everyday doing just what they did the day before.

[ETTELA'AT] Meaning you really take your writing this seriously?

[Gol Aqa] What did you think? I am Gol Aqa, not Naser ol-Din Shah's Karim Shireh'i. Moreover, when someone publishes an opposition article in the newspaper, the next day there will be a flood of abuse directed at him from the press and the Majles. You'd think it was the end of the world! Things had gotten to the point that readers were asking me, how is it that you can write whatever you want, but others cannot? I was gradually becoming the only voice of protest and opposition! Sometimes I had to ask myself, how can one blame people who doubt the authenticity of my work and the independence of my pen?

[ETTELA'AT] Then you yourself should have answered the question you've outlined! How did it happen, really, that you wrote so forcefully?

[Gol Aqa] I believe in the principle of the government and I consider it my duty to write serious criticism on the issues. I'm not aligned with any faction. I try to treat the people and the revolution honestly. There are many other reasons that require that I be able to criticize in the same forceful tone that a supporter takes in backing and siding with the regime. Despite all of this, I have not remained unscathed by barbs of accusation. They have said many times that I am absolutely fearless. They have even taken an obscene tone against me in a newspaper, but I have done my own work.

[ETTELA'AT] It is therefore surprising. Why did you retire the column "Two Words of Straight Talk"?

[Gol Aqa] There is nothing surprising about it. If I have retired this column, it is because I have once more shown what my duty is with my pen. I am thinking, is it possible, in the new circumstances I am in, to give the Gol Aqa treatment to the most basic problems, and to write straight talk about them? Is that actually advisable? Whenever I have clarified my duty to myself and my pen, I will decide. It cannot be said at this point whether or not I have retired the column for good.

[ETTELA'AT] Did you write "Straight Talk" in the past without having clarified your duty to yourself and your pen?

[Gol Aqa] No, but conditions were different then. The imam was with us and I was confident that my criticism would not do any damage. Today, however, I do not have that confidence.

[ETTELA'AT] Yes, but you retired the column before the imam (peace be upon him) passed away.

[Gol Aqa] Yes, but there is a substantive and qualitative difference between the retirement of "Two Words of Straight Talk" at these two points in time.

[ETTELA'AT] Did your criticism at that time cause the displeasure of his Holiness the imam (peace be upon him)?

[Gol Aqa] No, never.

[ETTELA'AT] Are you sure?

[Gol Aqa] I'm sure.

[ETTELA'AT] What about His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i?

[Gol Aqa] He always encouraged me.

Pakistan

Spokesman Explains Resignation of Cabinet

BK1411150489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] An official spokesman said in Islamabad today that the cabinet ministers have voluntarily tendered their resignations to the prime minister in a move that reflects their commitment to consolidate the democratic process and a parliamentary system of government. They submitted their resignations to eliminate misconceptions about them. The prime minister lauded the feelings of her cabinet ministers, but did not accept their resignations and requested them to continue working in their positions for the time being.

Commenting on the resignation by the prime minister's advisers and special assistants, the spokesman said that they also voluntarily submitted their resignations, which were accepted by the prime minister. However, she asked the Adviser on Finance V.A. Jafarey and National Security Adviser I.A. Akhund to continue to work in their positions.

PRC Premier Li Peng, Delegation Conduct Visit

Prime Minister Calls on Li

BK1411154589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called on Chinese Premier Li Peng in Rawalpindi this evening and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Adviser on Foreign Affairs and National Security Iqbal Akhund, Foreign Secretary Humayun Khan, and the Pakistani ambassador to China assisted the prime minister during the meeting, while the Chinese premier was assisted by his foreign minister, vice foreign minister, and the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan.

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen that the talks were held in an atmosphere of deep friendship and understanding. He said that the two prime ministers expressed satisfaction at the relations between their two countries. He said the warm welcome accorded to the Chinese premier on his arrival reflected the close friendly ties between Pakistan and the PRC and the feeling of deep love and sincerity of the government and the people of Pakistan toward the Chinese people and their leaders.

PRC Delegation Holds Talks

BK1411161189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The ministerial-level meeting between Pakistan and China was held in Rawalpindi this evening to review bilateral trade and economic cooperation and identify areas of mutually-beneficial cooperation. The two sides held talks on matters of trade, finance, electricity, food and agriculture, industry, communications, and particularly on the road construction sector.

China expressed its interest in providing humanitarian aid to Afghan refugees.

V.A. Jafarey, the prime minister's adviser on finance and economic cooperation, led the Pakistani delegation at the talks, while Zheng Tuobin, minister for foreign economic relations and trade, led the Chinese side. The two sides are expected to sign agreements on expanding economic cooperation tomorrow. The formal delegation-level talks will be held tomorrow morning and will be led by the two prime ministers.

Bhutto, Li Peng Make Speeches

BK1511034489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] The prime ministers of Pakistan and the PRC have reiterated their firm determination to safeguard peace and further strengthen bilateral relations. They stated this at a banquet in Islamabad last night, which was hosted by Ms Benazir Bhutto in honor of Li Peng.

In her welcoming speech, the Pakistani prime minister said Pakistan-PRC friendship is a symbol of relations between countries that are not only geographically different from one another but also have different social, economic, and political systems. She said their friendship has served the interests of Pakistan and the PRC and contributed greatly to peace and stability in the region. The relations between the two countries are unique, exemplary, and enviable.

Referring to her talks with Li Peng, she said the views of Pakistan and the PRC are identical on vital global and regional issues. The prime minister said the PRC has generously helped Pakistan in realizing self-sufficiency in various sectors, especially in defense and heavy industries. Ms Benazir Bhutto said that Pakistan is happy about the success of the recent summit meeting between the leaders of the PRC and the Soviet Union.

She said Pakistan also attaches great importance to friendly relations with its neighboring countries. The democratic government of Pakistan has made efforts for normalizing relations with India without compromising on the principled stand on any issue. A process has been initiated to reduce tension, but there is still much to be done in this regard. She said Pakistan is ready for talks with India on steps to improve confidence, including the steps for reduction of arms and nuclear nonproliferation. This is possible only when the relations between the nations of South Asia are based on the principles of peaceful coexistence and political solutions are found to outstanding disputes.

Referring to Afghanistan, the prime minister welcomed the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. She added, however, it is unfortunate that the regime, which was installed by foreign intervention and is not liked by the Afghan people, is being kept up. Ms Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan considers that a durable solution to this issue can be found only through the establishment of a broad-based government supported by the Afghan people.

On the Middle East problem, she said the international community should continue its support for the Palestinians in their struggle for the right of self-determination.

Referring to the restoration of democracy in Pakistan, Ms Benazir Bhutto said the stability of democratic institutions in Pakistan has been demonstrated during the recent no-confidence motion, which has made the government stronger and more stable.

In his speech, the Chinese premier said the people and government of the PRC are determined to further strengthen their friendship and cooperation with Pakistan, and the PRC will always try to promote Pakistani-PRC friendship. He said the people of Pakistan are industrious, loyal, and courageous; they have the spirit to work hard and have made great achievements in national progress.

Referring to the international situation, Li Peng said world peace and stability are in peril because of countries forcing their will on others and interfering in the internal affairs of others. The Chinese premier, who noted that the Afghanistan issue has not yet been completely solved, lauded Pakistan for providing assistance to about 3 million Afghan refugees on humanitarian grounds. He said Pakistan has made full efforts for a comprehensive political solution to this issue, which has been greatly appreciated by the international community. He said: We hope that various political forces in Afghanistan will set up a broad-based government through peaceful talks and that the nonaligned status of Afghanistan will be restored as soon as possible.

Referring to the counterrevolutionary activities in the PRC last summer, he said the PRC has withstood this ordeal. The situation is stable now, and the social system is normal. He said there is no change in the PRC's domestic and foreign policies.

'Direct Talks' Held 15 Nov

BK1511040089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Direct talks between delegations from Pakistan and China will be held in Islamabad this morning. Ms Benazir Bhutto and Li Peng will lead their respective delegations. At the talks, both sides are expected to sign agreements for expanding economic cooperation.

In the evening, the Chinese premier will call on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Thereafter, the president will host a dinner in honor of the distinguished guest.

Number of Proposals Finalized

BK1511081589 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Formal talks between Pakistan and China were held in Islamabad this morning. During the talks, the two sides finalized a number of proposals for cooperation between the two countries in different fields. The two prime ministers, Ms Benazir Bhutto and Li Peng, led the delegations of the two countries at the talks.

Envoy Says Pakistani-Soviet Relations Improving

BK1111044889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Pakistan, [Viktor] Yakunin, says the existing friendly relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union have been improving. Inaugurating a photographic exhibition in Rawalpindi last night, he said cooperation in the agricultural, economic, scientific, technical, and educational sectors can be further promoted by exchanges of delegations. The exhibition was organized by the Pakistani-Soviet Friendship Society on the occasion of the national day of the Soviet Union. The exhibition reflected social, cultural, and economic developments in the Soviet Union.

Law Minister on Negotiations With Opposition

BK1211153589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] Federal Law and Justice Minister Iftikhar Hussain Gilani has said that the government is ready to hold talks with the political parties, including the Muhajir Qaumi Movement, on any issue. Talking informally to newsmen in Karachi today, he said we want to reach a national consensus on the problems faced by the nation, but there is no need for a roundtable conference of political leaders. Answering a question, he said we are ready to convene a meeting of the Council of Common Interests [CCI] [on Center-province relations], but there must be an agenda for this meeting. If any province desires to discuss any issue at the CCI meeting, it should write to the federal government about this special problem, so that the CCI meeting can be convened. So far as the federal government is concerned, it sees no need for convening such a meeting.

The law and justice minister added that after the defeat of the no-confidence motion in the National Assembly, the prime minister is not constitutionally bound to prove her majority in the house. He said the federal government is trying to abolish the eighth amendment to the Constitution through consensus. He also said the government has been in touch with all political parties to discuss the issue.

Sri Lanka

Statement Issued on Arrest, Death of JVP Leader

BK1511120989 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Upatissa Gamanayake of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] has been killed by security forces. At a news conference held in Colombo yesterday, the minister of foreign affairs and state minister of defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, read out a statement issued by the commander of the army, Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe, on the arrest and subsequent death of Upatissa Gamanayake.

The statement says that the leader of the JVP, Rohana Wijeweera, while being questioned gave several locations at which leading members of the JVP and DJV [Deshapremi Janatha Viyaparaya, the political wing of JVP] could be found. Police and army teams were dispatched to these locations. One of the teams that went to Bandaragama in the Kalutara District apprehended Mr Upatissa Gamanayake. He was posing off as (Dias Mudalawe). Initially, he denied his identity. But on being confronted with a photograph admitted that he was Upatissa Gamanayake. He was brought to a security force establishment where he was fingerprinted and questioned. In the course of questioning, he referred to a safe house which he was prepared to point out. Thereafter, he led a team to a location in Boralesgomuwa. While proceeding, there was a sudden power failure. Just

then the suspect lunged out of the vehicle in a bid to escape, whereupon security forces personnel opened fire. He succumbed to the injuries sustained. Under emergency regulations, the body was cremated at the (Kohugola) cemetery. The names of the security forces personnel who participated in the operation are being withheld for security reasons.

The minister said the security forces are being kept on full alert to face any situation. All police stations have been advised to take immediate action on any subversive activities. The minister said operations are continuing on information given by Rohana Wijeweera and there is a possibility of further arrests. The minister also said that a large number of items of gold jewelry robbed from the public have been recovered from several places pointed out by Rohana Wijeweera. He requested the owners of these items to write to the inspector general of police giving details of the lost articles enabling identification and for restoration of the stolen articles to the owners. The state minister for foreign affairs, John Amaratunge; the inspector general of police Ernest Perera; Navy Commander Ananda Silva; Army Commander Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe; secretary of defense, General Sepala Attygalle; and the state secretary of defense, General Cyril Ranatunge were also present at the press conference.

200 Tamil Rebels Reportedly Land in India

BK1511094689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0916 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 15 (AFP)—More than 200 heavily-armed members of Sri Lanka's most powerful Tamil guerrilla group have arrived in southern India to attack their rivals, a Tamil group which rules the island's north-east said Wednesday.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had landed in Tamil Nadu State's Vedaranniyam coastal area by small boats over the past week.

"Their objective is to attack the supporters of various (Sri Lankan) Tamil groups who have accepted the democratic process," the EPRLF said in a statement read over the telephone from India's southern city of Madras.

The left-wing EPRLF governs Sri Lanka's north-east, where India has more than 30,000 troops under a 1987 bilateral accord which all Tamil groups except the LTTE have accepted. The agreement sought to end Tamil separatism.

The EPRLF said it was making the allegation on the basis of information gathered from "reliable sources" and from revelations made by LTTE members who have surrendered to the EPRLF in Sri Lanka.

"It is to be noted that these people are arriving at a time when the law and order machinery in Tamil Nadu is engaged in election work," said the EPRLF, adding that the LTTE would use "this opportune time to commit crimes."

Tamil Nadu is separated from Sri Lanka only by a narrow strip of sea, frequently criss-crossed by Tamil guerrilla groups to ferry arms and men, despite Indian naval patrols.

There was no immediate comment from Tamil Nadu officials on the report.

An EPRLF spokesman said more than 100 members of at least three Sri Lankan Tamil groups which oppose the LTTE were living in Tamil Nadu, which once served as a sanctuary to Tamil rebels campaigning for a homeland in the island nation.

Indian troops, who launched an offensive against the LTTE in October 1987 but have been observing a ceasefire since September 20 this year, are scheduled to return home by December 31.

More than 1,000 Indian soldiers and 2,000 suspected LTTE members have died in fighting since October 1987.